



ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY  
WASHINGTON

Founded 1836



Section \_\_\_\_\_

Number 9980 \_\_\_\_\_





AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
**YELLOW FEVER,**  
WHICH OCCURRED  
IN THE CITY OF NEW-YORK,  
IN THE  
Year 1822,

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED

*A brief sketch of the different Pestilential Diseases,  
with which this City was afflicted,*

IN THE

YEARS 1798, 1799, 1803 & 1805,

WITH THE OPINION

OF SEVERAL OF OUR MOST EMINENT PHYSICIANS,

RESPECTING

THE ORIGIN OF THE DISEASE,

ITS PREVENTION AND CURE.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A CORRECT LIST

OF ALL THE

**DEATHS BY YELLOW FEVER**

DURING THE LATE SEASON,

TAKEN FROM OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

BY JAMES HARDIE, A. M.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY SAMUEL MARKS,

Corner of Greenwich & Vesey Streets,

1822.

WC

532

H262a

1822

c.1

## P R E F A C E.

---

I MOST respectfully submit to the perusal of my fellow citizens, this little volume. The subject is peculiarly interesting and has excited the inquiry of many of the most eminent physicians, not only in the United States, but also in Europe. Many books have been written on the subject of Yellow Fever; but there appears to be still as great a diversity of opinion respecting its origin, amongst medical gentlemen, as there was about one hundred and twenty years ago, when it first made its appearance in this country.

Whether physicians will ever agree upon this subject, I know not; but if they cannot unite in opinion respecting its origin, it would certainly be of infinite importance, if they would consult together and endeavour to devise the most effectual mode of its cure. When an evil befalls us, it is an object of little consequence to know from whence it came. The main point is to ascertain the means of removing it.

To the account of the Yellow Fever, with which we have been lately afflicted, I have prefixed a brief sketch of those, which occurred in former years, viz. from 1798 to the present period. This will shew, that whatever malignant aspect the disease may assume, it will not, in all probability, be so destructive to the lives of our citizens as it has been formerly.

I have selected from the essays written by several eminent physicians sundry pieces, respecting the nature, prevention and cure of the disease. These I trust will be perused by my readers with pleasure and profit. For the list of the names of the deceased, I am indebted to his Honour the Mayor, to whom I thus publicly return my thanks, as also to the City Inspector, who obligingly favoured me with the names of those persons, who died of Yellow Fever after the Board had closed its daily sittings.

My aim in every page has been truth, accuracy and a sincere desire to promote the public good, and in order to effect these desirable objects, I have spent considerable labour. How far I have succeeded, I cannot determine; but of this I am certain, that I meant well and have used my best endeavours to render the work as satisfactory to the public as possible.

JAMES HARDIE.

*New-York, November 12, 1822.*



AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
YELLOW FEVER, &c.

---

BEFORE I enter on the subject, on which I am now about to write, viz. The History of the Yellow Fever, which prevailed in this city in the autumn of the present year, I am induced to believe, that it will be agreeable to many of my readers, if I should lay before them a brief sketch of the history of this dreadful calamity during some preceding years, in which it had made its appearance.

The Yellow Fever, in our times, was first observed in this city in the year 1791, when General Malcolm and some other very respectable citizens fell victims to its fury. The late respectable Dr. James Tillary, at a meeting of a number of physicians, explained the symptoms of the disease, described its character and gave it its true name. To all present, excepting two, the Doctor spoke in a language which was past their comprehension, as he had described a disease which they had never seen, and of which they had not the most distant conception. But it was well remembered by the late venerable Dr. John Carleton and Dr. Samuel Bard, who had seen the same fell destroyer, spreading havoc and destruction in this city, about forty years before that period. Since that time, it has repeatedly made its appearance amongst us, and every physician in this city as well as in most other maritime cities in the United States has had repeated opportunities of seeing it and of devising, in his own mind, what he might deem the most effectual means of its prevention and cure.

As the sickness, which occurred in the year 1798, was, by far, more fatal than any, which has happened since that time, I shall endeavour to give as brief an account as possible of its origin, progress and termination.

Its first victim, in all probability, was Mr. Melancton Smith, who died on the 28th or 29th of July, after an illness of a few days. His case was said to have been attended with the most malignant symptoms; but such was the general opinion of the inhabitants with respect to the healthiness of our city, that his death excited little or no alarm. It was believed that Mr. Smith had been taken sick at his store, in Front-street, near Coenties-slip, and a few days after his death, several persons were attacked with sickness in that vicinity. The symptoms of their disorders however, appeared to be similar to that of a *common cold*. They were, therefore, negligent in obtaining medical aid; hence the disease got the ascendancy before they were aware of their danger, and the assistance of physicians was called for when it was too late.

Whether any case of pestilential fever existed in the earlier part of August, remote from the place where it was believed to have originated, was not, at the time, ascertained to a certainty; but of this, there was no doubt, viz. that about the 20th of the month, cases of a highly malignant nature appeared in different parts of the city on the same day, and in the course of six or eight days in different streets very remote from one another. In particular it began to rage with great violence at the New-slip; in Cliff-street and John-street; but more especially in Rider-street and Eden's-alley, where not a family escaped it, nor was there a house except two, in which it did not terminate fatally to one or more individuals.

The Health Commissioners began to be apprehensive respecting the appearance of this pestilence, so early as the 6th of August, on which day, they addressed a letter to the Mayor. It was to the following purport, viz. that "the unfinished state of the docks in Front-street, between Coenties and the Old Slips, generally, had been, in their opinion, a source of disease, in that neighbourhood, last year, and had occasioned the death of several

valuable citizens. That they cannot sufficiently regret, that they had reason to renew their remonstrances on this subject, and that its present situation was likely to be productive of still greater evils than those of last year. They added, that several persons had sickened in the neighbourhood of these unfinished grounds within a week and with symptoms strikingly characteristic of yellow fever, and they recommended, that the Common Council would appoint two of their members, with whom they (the Commissioners) would meet, at an early hour, on the ensuing morning, to concert measures adapted to the emergency of the case. The board very cheerfully complied with this recommendation, and such measures were immediately adopted as were deemed most likely to check the progress of the growing malady; but it had now taking so deep root, that it could neither be eradicated nor checked by human means.

On the same day (6th August) the Commissioners issued an advertisement, notifying their determination to put the laws in force against those, who should neglect to keep the streets clean before their respective doors, &c. adding that the Street Inspectors were directed to report all offences of this nature to the Police, and that the penalty against offenders would be rigidly exacted.

On the 12th, 13th and 14th of August, there were heavy showers of rain; that on the 14th commenced at four in the morning, and continued without intermission until nine with considerable thunder. The quantity which fell, during these five hours, was supposed to have been greater than had, at any time, fallen, during the same space of time, for many years. The streets were covered with water in many places knee deep, and a vast number of cellars were filled with it.

It was, at the time, generally, believed, that this excessive rain and thunder would have so purified the air, that the city would, in a few days, be totally exempt from any cases of this disorder; but, alas! our expectations were dreadfully disappointed. It is well known, that stagnant water in confined places, during hot weather will, in a few days, exhale a pestilential vapour, which, if it does not generate, will certainly propagate or

throw into more extensive circulation, dangerous diseases, which have already made their appearance. To prevent an occurrence of this kind, the citizens were repeatedly and most earnestly entreated by the Health Commissioners to cause the water to be removed, and lime afterwards to be liberally scattered in their cellars. Although it might have been reasonably expected, that a regard to self-preservation would have produced a prompt compliance with this recommendation, it is well known, that many neglected it, and of those not a few were amongst the first victims to the disease. From this time, the number of deaths almost daily increased.

About the 24th of August, numbers began to leave the city, and many of those, who had offices for the transaction of business, towards the East River, moved to Broadway, which was deemed more healthy. The Custom-House, in Mill-street, and the Insurance Office in Water-street, were fixed, for the time, in the Tontine City Tavern in Broadway.

During the whole month of August, the number of deaths amounted to three hundred and twenty-nine. As particular attention was not paid by the sextons, during this month to distinguish those, who fell victims to the fever, from those who had died of other disorders, it was difficult to ascertain their precise numbers. It was believed, however, that by fixing it at one hundred, it would not be far from the truth. On the 15th of August, the deaths were 14, from which day the number continued to progress, so that on the 1st of September, they amounted to 23. The daily averages during August was about 12.

On the 15th of September, the number of funerals was 38, on the 19th they were no less than 63, and on each of the two following days, they were reduced to 40, from which circumstance hopes were entertained, that our mortal foe was about to leave us; but we were again disappointed, for the next four days, it kept fluctuating between 41 and 50, and on the 26th, rose up to 60. The total number of deaths, during this month was eleven hundred and fifty-two, of whom nine hundred and fifty-four died of fever. The daily average through the month was about 38.

The number of the dead on the 1st of October was 43, and this was the greatest number, during the whole month. On the 18th it was reduced to 16, and on the 21st it only amounted to 9. After this the number of deaths on any one day, during the existence of the calamity, did not exceed 15, and it is almost certain, that had our absent citizens attended to the advice of the Health Committee, dissuading them from a premature return, the death warrant of the disorder might have been dated from that day. The whole number of funerals in October was five hundred and twenty-two, of whom four hundred and thirty-one died of fever. The average of the deaths, during this month, was about 17.

On the 10th of November, the deaths were 5, and, on each of the preceding days, they were only 4. The total number, during these ten days were 83, of whom thirty-nine died of yellow fever. The following address of the Committee to the public now made its appearance.

“The Health Committee for the relief of the sick and indigent in the city of New-York, beg leave to congratulate their fellow citizens, that under Divine Providence, this long afflicted city is once more restored to its usual state of general health, and, with the most heartfelt pleasure, inform those, who yet remain in exile, that although a few cases of the pestilential fever exist, yet that by the *late cold weather and frost*, the contagion is so far destroyed, as to render the return of their families to the city perfectly safe, provided they take the necessary previous measures of cleansing and ventilating their long un-*aired dwellings*, and purifying the bedding and clothing, which may have been left therein during the prevalence of the fever.”

“It would have afforded the Committee much satisfaction, could they have given this invitation, at an earlier period, but they did not conceive themselves warranted by the then existing circumstances. There have, until the present moment, been several new cases of fever, *particularly among those citizens, who returned earlier than the committee thought prudent, many of whom have fallen victims to the devouring pestilence.* This

among other circumstances, has induced the committee to withhold this invitation until the present time, &c."

The whole number of deaths, during this awful calamity was two thousand and eighty-six, viz. eleven hundred and ten men, five hundred and eighty-nine women, and eight hundred and eighty-five children. Of these, if we admit, that one hundred died of the fever in August, its victims would amount to one thousand five hundred and twenty-four. A great many of our citizens too, who fled, were likewise cut off by it. Hence it is probable, that the whole number of deaths would be between 2400 and 2500. An awful number! indeed; particularly if we consider, that more than one third, some suppose, that one half of the inhabitants had left the city.

An opinion generally prevailed, that the progress of the disease varied according to the state of the atmosphere; but from my observations on this subject, in the years 1798, 1799, 1800, 1803, 1805, and also, in the present year, I am much inclined to doubt its accuracy. *The pestilence walketh in darkness*, and the wisest of men, as yet, know very little of the nature of its progress. Of this, however, we may be certain, that cool mornings and evenings, accompanied by hot days, contribute greatly to spread infection; that in case of yellow fever having for some time, existed in a city, it is extremely dangerous for those, who have fled to return to their houses, till the hard frost shall set in, and that a *keen black frost* has uniformly and almost instantaneously put an end to the further progress of the disorder.

I have been frequently asked since the commencement of the late epidemic, what proportion the number of deaths bore to that of the cases reported in the year 1798. Of this I am not able to procure any authentic document. If I remember right, however, I believe, that, during the month of August, nearly one half of those, who were reported, died, and after that period the proportion diminished to about one third.

With respect to the hospital at Bellevue, to which a number of sick persons were sent from the city, we have a correct report of the number of cases and deaths, in my "Account of the Malignant Fever" in 1798, ex-



pressed in the following words. "The whole number of persons admitted from August 1st, to 3d November, after which none were received, was three hundred and eighty-nine, of whom two hundred and eighty-nine were from the city, and one hundred seamen. Of the former, one hundred and seventy-two died, and one hundred and seventeen were discharged. The latter were more fortunate; for of them only thirty-three died; the other sixty-seven recovered."

"From the above statement, which may be depended upon as correct, the following question naturally occurs. How came it, that a much greater proportion of seamen recovered at this hospital, than of those sent thither from the city? The answer is this. The seamen were, in general, sent there in the first stage of the disorder, whereas many of our citizens, from the fears, which they entertained respecting the hospital, could not be prevailed on to permit themselves to be removed thither, till they were past recovery."

"There is one thing very remarkable, with respect to the attendants of this hospital, which ought not to be omitted. Their situation, to most people, must have, no doubt, appeared peculiarly dangerous, as they were literally surrounded by pestilence. It so happened, however, that neither physicians, nurses, nor washerwomen caught the infection. The boatmen too belonging to the Health Office, who entered the hospital at all times, and were not only engaged in bringing the sick from the city and shipping; but, likewise, in removing them from place to place, enjoyed a uniform state of good health; and of those persons, who accompanied their friends, and relations, stayed with them and nursed them, there is not a single instance of an individual being infected. In short, Dr. Douglass, one of the assistant physicians, was the only person, residing there, who was seized with fever; but he had been in the habit of occasionally visiting his friends in the city, and three days previous to his being taken ill, had slept in a house, the vicinity of which was highly infected; and it is more than probable, that his sickness was occasioned by that cause."

*The following is a comparative statement of deaths, during the Pestilential Fever of 1793 in Philadelphia, 1795 in New-York, and 1798 in New-York and Philadelphia.*

In Philadelphia, in the year 1793	-	-	4041
New-York, - - - - 1795	-	-	732
New-York, - - - - 1798	-	-	2086
Philadelphia, in the same year,	-	-	3506

I have thus finished my observations, concerning the sickness, which prevailed in the year 1798. I shall now make a few remarks concerning that, which occurred, in the year 1799. There was, then, a very considerable alarm, in consequence of a sickness, which, by some, was supposed to have originated from the exhalations arising from grounds, lately made, while others maintained, that it had been introduced by some vessel or vessels from one of the sickly ports in the West Indies. With respect to the origin of this disease, a diversity of opinion then existed, amongst our most respectable physicians, and though much has been written on the subject, at that time and afterwards, the point in dispute still remains unsettled. The disease originated towards the end of July, in the vicinity of the Old Slip, and was, in general, confined to the streets in the neighbourhood of the East River. As, during the sickly period of that year, I was at the Marine Hospital on Staten Island, I had not the same opportunity of observing its progress, as I had in the preceding and subsequent years, in which it made its appearance. But of this one fact, I had the most convincing proof, viz. that *the disease was not contagious in a pure air*. During the months of July, August and October, there were in all about two hundred and fifty persons sick of Yellow Fever in the Marine Hospital, a great part of whom were from the shipping, the rest from the city. At that time, there were of physicians, nurses, washerwomen, boatmen, and my family, composed of myself, my wife, and three children, thirty-seven persons, not one of whom, although daily and hourly amongst the



sick, experienced the least indisposition. The physicians were the late Richard Bayley, Health Officer, Joseph Bayley, the present Health Officer, and two others. They were incessant in the discharge of their duty, and, at least, two out of three of their patients recovered.

Before I conclude this article, it may not be improper to state the different opinions, which prevailed amongst medical gentlemen respecting the origin of this dreadful disease. From what I have already mentioned respecting the letter from the Health Commissioners to the Common Council of date 6th August, it is obvious, that not only they, but a number of other respectable physicians believed in its *local origin*, and assigned the cause to the malarious grounds on the East River.

Such was the opinion of those, who believed that the disease proceeded from local origin. There were many very respectable physicians, however, as well as other citizens, who thought that it had been imported. I deem it correct to give the opinions on both sides of the subject, and shall, therefore, lay before my readers an extract from a letter, which I received from Mr. Richardson Underhill, a respectable merchant of this city, dated the 30th December, 1798. This gentleman was not a physician; but in the opinion of Doctor Hosack, he contributed very much to the recovery of the sick. I well remember, that he was incessant in his labours, and that they were, in general, crowned with uncommon success.

“In a mind void of prejudice,” says he, “it is more difficult to form an exact opinion of the origin of this disorder, than most people, upon a transient view of the subject would suppose. For my own part, neither my education, nor my inclination, will permit me to form any theories, concerning the first engendering of pestilence, from combinations of gases, or other causes. The dens in which it is bred, and in which it lurks, until it issues forth to seize its prey, are more proper objects for persons in my sphere of life to explore. To this purpose, I have frequently revolved in my mind, whether it was an imported or homebred disorder, several circumstances concurring to produce an opinion of its being the latter. The very rapid progress of it, during a very hot summer,

just after a very heavy fall of rain, which stagnated in almost an innumerable number of cellars and back yards; the malignancy of it in the neighbourhood of some of those cellars, many of them stowed with large quantities of putrid beef, in the neighbourhood of filthy sewers, or other nuisances, and also from its spreading in Golden Hill and Cliff-street, which are in a Northerly direction, from some of those dens of pestilence I have just mentioned, and of course liable to be acted upon by the prevailing South winds. But however well founded this opinion may be, with respect to the agency of those things, in producing the disease, yet with all those other facts, which I will relate, I am almost induced to believe, that all is not to be charged to them. They rendered the neighbourhood highly combustible; but, perhaps, a spark of contagion might be necessary to produce so dreadful a conflagration. The first appearance of the disorder was in Front-street near Coenties-Slip, where Melancton Smith died, about the 28th or 29th of July, and on the 30th, Peter A. Schenck was taken severely sick. The following week, one Wilson M. Smith, Junior, Peter Dustan and wife had slight attacks, from which it spread to other families in a very short time.\*

“The next appearance of the fever was at the house of Henry Mead, at the lower corner of the west side of New-Slip. Some time, in July, the ship *Fame*, said to have arrived from one of the West-India Islands, came to the wharf next below New-Slip, and lay there for some time. About the 3d or 4th of August, some people went to discharge her ballast and pump her out; amongst the ballast was a quantity of damaged coffee, extremely putrid, which, with the water discharged from the pump, was so offensive to the smell, that the neighbours were induced to shut their windows, especially while eating. About the 6th of said month, the following persons spent a considerable part of the day at Mead’s house, John and Ebe-

\* The people of this neighbourhood laid the blame of their sickness to the schooner *Fox*, which arrived from Jeremie, between the middle and latter part of July, and hauled to a wharf a little east of Coenties-Slip, where she unloaded, and upon pumping her out, her bilge water was very offensive.

nezer Taylor, Sylvanus Seaman, Monmouth Hubbs, Walter Davis, Augustus Peck, and a young man clerk in a store near the Exchange. Most of these dined there, and, during their dinner, they were under the necessity of shutting up the doors and windows, though the weather was very warm, so exceedingly were they annoyed, by the stench from the ship. Of this company collected from several quarters and who dispersed to their respective homes, not a single one escaped severe sickness, which they were taken with in from four to five days, and of which John and Ebenezer Taylor died. Two persons belonging to the family were also sick. The next house above this, (there being none below it) was, at the same time, visited, and of five persons, three were taken dangerously ill and two died. In the second house above, three more persons were sick at the same time and one died, and the family of the house next to this shared a similar fate, three were sick, two of whom died in a very short time. Many of the boatmen, whose vessels lay in the Slip, at this period fared no better, a number of them being victims to this stench or the contagion it produced." After some other observations, he concludes thus. "From these facts, it appears, that the sickness in this quarter was caused by the ship; whether it was created in her or brought from another country, I cannot undertake to determine; but be it as it may, *the fever was undoubtedly there contagious*, and spread to distant parts of the town by means of the sick; the bodies of the inhabitants having (as I suppose) been rendered ripe for its reception. From here I can trace it to the neighbourhood of Golden-Hill, where a man named Harper, died in Gold-street on the 11th of August. One Fowler died on the 18th of the same month in John-street, and the third victim was Solomon Carl, who died on the 20th in Gold-street. Harper imputed the origin of his sickness to his having crossed the deck of the ship beforementioned three days before he was taken."

The benevolence of the wealthy inhabitants of our city as well as those of the state and different parts of New-Jersey, reflected the greatest honour on the character of our countrymen. Upon this occasion, upwards of \$7000

in cash was sent to the Health Committee for the relief of the afflicted; and beef, pork, sheep, butter, cheese, flour, rye and indian meal, buckwheat, potatoes, fowls, turnips, wood, &c. &c. were brought into the city, the value of which it would be difficult to ascertain; but which, in all probability could not amount to less than \$40,000. During the whole of this calamitous period, such was the extraordinary liberality of our fellow-citizens in granting donations, and such the unremitting attention of the committee in distributing them, that notwithstanding the distressed were by far more numerous than at any previous period in this city; yet there was no individual at a loss for the necessaries of life, for medical aid, or for nurses.

---

*A brief account of the Yellow Fever, which prevailed in the City of New-York, in the year 1803.*

From the year 1798 to the year 1803, there were, in every year, in the sickly season, some sporadic cases of Yellow Fever. But except in the years 1799 and 1803, they had excited no great alarm. In the year 1803, the number of cases reported was 1639, and the deaths by malignant fever amounted to 606. The hospital at Bellevue was, in that year, opened on the 12th day of August and closed on the 7th of November, during which period were admitted

Of Malignant Fever patients,	- - - -	170
Of various other diseases,	- - - -	21
		<hr/>
Total		191

The deaths which occurred were

Of Malignant Fever,	- - -	100
Phthisis Pulmonalis,	- -	1
Diarrhœa,	- - - -	2
		<hr/>
		103
Discharged cured,	- - -	88

Of the Yellow Fever, in the year 1803, we have an accurate account, from the official letter, which was written by the late Dr. Miller, then Resident Physician to his Excellency the Governor. From this letter I extract the following.

“The commencement of the disease took place, about the 20th of July, and from that time, it continued to prevail, in a greater or less degree till the end of October. The number of deaths, in this city, amounted to five hundred and three; those at the Hospital of Bellevue, to one hundred and three, and those at the Marine Hospital on Staten Island, to sixty-eight, making a total of six hundred and seventy-four. To this should be added, an indefinite number, about fifty or sixty, who fled from the city, and died of this disease, in the neighbouring country and villages.

The first public alarm arose from some fatal cases, at the Coffee-House Slip and in that neighbourhood. About the same time, the disease was discovered in many other parts of the city, without any known intercourse or communication between the persons, who fell sick. Although the number of cases, even at the worst periods of the epidemic, could not be pronounced to be great, especially, if compared with some preceding seasons, they were certainly more generally diffused, and left fewer parts of the city exempt than on any former occasions. Broadway and some of the adjacent parts of the town retained their healthy character. The streets lying near the margins of the two rivers, and some of those in the upper part of the city, which are principally inhabited by indigent, uncleanly and dissolute classes of the community, suffered the worst ravages of the disease. The alarm of the inhabitants was very suddenly produced, and the suspension of business and the desertion of the city far exceeded what had been ever experienced in former seasons.”

The Doctor, after stating his opinion, concerning the source from which this epidemic was derived, makes the following very judicious observations, which I deem it proper to transcribe for the consideration not only of the present, but also of every future Board of Health.

“The different opinions,” says he, “concerning the origin of Yellow Fever, would seem on a slight survey of the subject, to lead to very different means of prevention and public safety; but a more attentive consideration will impress the opposite consideration. Both parties insist on the necessity of detaining and cleansing foul and sickly vessels. The importers of Yellow Fever from abroad, for the purpose of excluding contagion, and the advocates of domestic generation, for the purpose of removing that filth, which, by the operation of heat, is so readily conveyed into poisonous vapours.”

“As to the removal of nuisances in the city, and rendering it as clear and pure as possible, all parties, even on their own principles, ought to be equally agreed. Yellow Fever is known to spread and prevail, in certain seasons, in this city. But it is also known, that, at such times, it cannot spread and prevail in the adjacent country and villages. In every season of this epidemic at New-York, multitudes have fled to the country, to Newark, Elizabethtown, Brunswick, &c. where they have been seized with the disease, and have died, without communicating it to any of the inhabitants of those places. The difference of condition and circumstances between such towns and this city, which, in the one case, annihilates the disease, at the death or recovery of the patient, and in the other, causes it to spread and become epidemic, must entirely consist in the absence of nuisances from the former, and in the accumulation and predominance of them in the latter. It seems, therefore, to follow of course, that the great desiderium towards banishing Yellow Fever from New-York, however it may be supposed to originate, *is such a degree of cleanliness and purity as may be found in the villages of the neighbourhood*, or as near an approximation to it as possible. Such a system of police as this, vigorously adopted and enforced, aided by the regulations of the Health Establishment on Staten Island, would, in my judgment, completely secure this city from the ravages of the Yellow Fever.”



*A brief account of the Yellow Fever, which prevailed in the City of New-York, during the year 1805.*

Having before me a letter from the late Doctor Edward Miller, then Resident Physician, to his Excellency Governor Lewis, I cannot do better than transcribe a part of it, as containing a more accurate account of the Yellow Fever of this year than I could otherwise have easily obtained. It is dated

*New-York, January 12th, 1806.*

“SIR,

The malignant disease, which prevailed in this city, for a considerable part of last autumn, having ceased about the beginning of November, it becomes my duty to lay before your Excellency such an account of it, as my official situation has enabled me to collect. I undertake this task with the more readiness, and shall examine the subject with the more attention, as this disease has lately acquired great additional importance from the frequency of its recurrence, the extent of its ravages, and the new and alarming points of view, in which it is now considered by the nations of Europe. The embarrassment of our commerce, on this account, in foreign ports, has been increasing for several years; they are already become oppressively great; they are likely hereafter to become still greater: and nothing but a thorough investigation of the subject, and the adoption of a wise and mature system of measures, will be sufficient to ascertain and set in operation any adequate means of relief.”

“In former seasons, it has been usual to observe sporadic cases of this disease, for several weeks, before the commencement of the epidemic. This was remarkably verified in the late season; and such cases deserve the more attention, as they furnish the best means of calculating the probability of approaching pestilence. Accordingly, one case of a decidedly malignant character was observed in the month of June; several took place in July; a still greater number in August; and at the beginning of September, they had become so numerous as

to ascertain the existence of the epidemic. Throughout September and October, the disease continued to prevail with more or less severity, according to the fluctuating state of the weather; but towards the close of the latter month, the coldness of the season had evidently checked its progress; and at the beginning of November, the city was nearly restored to its usual health."

"During the early period of the epidemic, nearly all the cases took place on the eastern side of the city, in Front, Water and Pearl Streets, and principally below Burling-Slip. They afterwards became more generally diffused. About the 20th of September, they began to prevail near the North River.\* On the whole, the *low* grounds on the margin of the two rivers certainly produced a chief part of the cases. The number of deaths in the city, amounted to about two hundred; those at the Bellevue Hospital to 52, and those in the Marine Hospital, sent from the city, to twenty-eight. The number of cases of Malignant Fever reported to the Board of Health, amounted to six hundred. It is proper, likewise, in estimating the extent of the epidemic, to notice an unascertained number, probably about forty, who after their flight from the city, died in various parts of the country.

"The source of this disease forms a most interesting subject of inquiry; on the success of which must depend all rational and adequate means of preventing and eradicating the evil. After a long and careful investigation of the subject, I cannot hesitate to conclude, that *a pernicious exhalation or vapour floating in the atmosphere, is the primary and essential cause of this disease.*

"No communication of the disease," says the Doctor, was ever observed in Yellow Fever Hospitals, situated at a small distance from the cities, to which they belong,

\* A similar extension of the disease, in the epidemic of 1803, was ascribed by many, to the removal of shipping from the East to the North River. As no such removal to that part of the city took place in the late season, it is necessary to explain the fact in some other way. This becomes very easy, when it is recollected, that the *made ground* on the North River is much less extensive, and the materials composing it much less foul and corrupt, than that on the East River. The miasmata come to maturity on the one side two or three weeks sooner than on the other.



No exception to this has ever occurred in any of the numerous seasons of this pestilence, at our Hospital at Bellevue, the Marine Hospital on Staten Island, that of Philadelphia, or any other in the United States, provided the malignant air of the city had been avoided. The force of this fact seems never to have been duly considered or appreciated. The numerous retinue of medical attendants, nurses, washerwomen, servants, &c. which belong to our hospitals, must be known to every body. How greatly they are all exposed to contagion, if it could be supposed to exist in this case, is equally known. The most malignant cases of the disease are constantly found in these Institutions. The exposure of physicians and their assistants is well understood. The duty of the nurses leads to an incessant and unreserved intercourse with the sick; they pass the greater part of their time and sleep in the apartments of the sick, the dying and the dead."

"The nurses, at Bellevue Hospital, became so entirely free from all apprehensions of the contagiousness of this disease, that they often slept on the same bed, with the sick, and it happened more than once, in the course of the season, that a nurse overcome with fatigue and want of sleep, threw herself in the night, for a little repose, on the bed of a dying patient, and continued there asleep, till the patient was dead, and it became necessary to remove the corpse."

Of the number of cases, at Bellevue Hospital, which was opened on the 9th of September and closed on the 28th of October, the following is the account of the City Inspector.

The number of patients admitted amounted to	175
Of whom the malignant cases were	- - - 149
Other diseases,	- - - - - 26

*The deaths, which occurred, were as follows :*

Of Malignant Fever,	- - - - - 52
Of other diseases,	- - - - - 17
Discharged cured,	- - - - - 106

---

175

The physicians of the Hospital remarked, that only one person died, who was admitted on the first day of disease. Of the extreme cases died

Within 24 hours after admission, - - - -	5
12 hours, - - - - -	6
6 hours, - - - - -	3
1 hour, - - - - -	6
10 minutes, - - - - -	2

---

22

which is nearly one third of the total amount of deaths.

The ratio of cures from Malignant Fever to deaths by the same disorder is very nearly two thirds, a circumstance, which considering, that most of the patients were sent there in the last stage of disease, reflects the highest credit on the practice of Doctors Walker and Winfield, the visiting and resident physician. In the year 1803, the number of deaths considerably exceeded one half the cases.

During the season of 1805, viz. between the 18th of July and 28th of October, sixty-four patients were sent from the city to the Marine Hospital, of whom 28 died. Of these eight died on the day of arrival, and seven on the day thereafter.

The total number of cases reported at the Office of the Board of Health, from the 5th of September to the 25th of October inclusive, amounted to 600.

The total number of deaths which occurred in this city and at Bellevue, during that period, amounted to 262.

Dr. John R. B. Rogers, then Health Officer, in an official letter to the Board, dated 19th December, 1805, makes the following observations. "At the quarantine," says he, "there have been constantly from the 1st of June to the 1st of October, a considerable number of vessels; frequently during that time, from forty to fifty, and on the last day of September, sixty. All of these vessels had lost some one or more of their crews, or had come from a sickly port; many of them (24 in number) were under the necessity of coming to the public wharf, where

some of them lay the greater part of the season. Of these, a considerable number hove down, others threw out their ballast and cleansed their limbers, some were sheathed or graved, and all of them overhauled more or less; and of the many officers, seamen and workmen, ship-carpenters, caulkers, riggers, coopers, sail-makers, blacksmiths, &c. not one was, in the smallest degree, indisposed, or took any sickness by connection with those vessels; nor has any of those persons, that I know of, been indisposed, except one carpenter, who took sick, some weeks after he left the quarantine ground, and died in the latter end of September in New-York, having exposed himself in the poisoned air of the city. Of the pilots, who have brought these infected vessels into port, and had frequently slept on board of them, very often one night and sometimes two, before they came to at quarantine, not one of them or any of their families have been in the smallest degree indisposed from any connection with such vessel. Of those attached to the Health Officer's Department, boatmen, orderlies and attendants, not one has been sick from any infection, or from any connection with the sick or infected vessels. Of the lighterers employed in carrying goods to the city, or bringing cargoes to vessels at quarantine, not one of them was, in the smallest degree, indisposed till the 24th or 25th of September, when one of them was taken with fever, which left him in a few days. Another was seized just after the first and died on the 2d of October. Neither of these had any connection with any foul ship, to which they could attribute their complaint; but they took it from having had a daily intercourse with the eastern part of the city, and from being under the necessity of going into houses and stores in that quarter, and staying longer in them than they had been accustomed to, by reason of the want of hands to receive their goods, in consequence of the desertion of that part of the city.

In this season as well as in every preceding, in which we had been visited by Yellow Fever, it was a subject of deep regret, that a collision of opinion existed not only with respect to the origin, but also in relation to the nature of the disease. While, on the one hand, it was con-

tended, that it was imported from abroad, it was, on the other hand asserted with equal earnestness, that it originated at home, or is generated on board of vessels, which arrive amongst us, and that it is entirely non-contagious. These discordant opinions, maintained by medical gentlemen of the first respectability and eminence, and which enter deeply into the passions, as well as the interests of the community have had a very inauspicious influence upon most of the leading measures, either of prevention or remedy.

The advocates of the doctrine of importation, in general contended, that it had been introduced by a quantity of rags in a vessel from Algesiras, while some attributed it to another vessel. With respect to the rags, Dr. Rodgers asserts in his report, that *they were clean and perfectly innoxious*. They had been prepared in the way they always are for the purposes of commerce; that is, after being first washed clean, dipped into, or through a strong lime water, or an alkaline solution; then dried and packed in bags or bales. These rags, thus prepared, were shipped some time last spring, from Leghorn, on board of an English vessel for Liverpool or London. The vessel had an health bill from Leghorn, and one also from Algesiras. She arrived here in August, after a passage of sixty-six days of mild weather, during which the hatches were always off in the day time, and the people almost constantly over the bags. The crew was healthy and had been so during the whole voyage, and the rags dry and in good order. When the bags were ripped open, they gave out a white unoffensive powder—this powder was lime. These rags were landed on the 13th of August, at the end of Coenties' Slip, were there from 8 o'clock in the morning till 12 at noon of the same day, and only for the purpose of being weighed; they were then taken on board of a vessel bound to the Eastward. A sample bag had been at Mr. Hurtin's store, two days previously to landing the rest, and was then taken away. No person received any injury from these rags, nor possibly could, for they were clean and as inoffensive as any article in the city."

The Doctor concludes thus, "I have now clearly

shewn as far as negative proof can go, *that whatever might have been the cause of the late epidemic, it did not arise from any neglect of duty at the Quarantine Ground, NOR DID IT COME THROUGH THAT CHANNEL.*"

Such was the opinion of Dr. Rodgers, and no one who is acquainted with the character of that gentleman will doubt his veracity.

But at that time I think it probable that the greater part of our most eminent physicians believed in its having been imported. Upon this subject, I shall lay before my readers, the two following extracts from letters written by Dr. Hosack to the Board of Health. The first is dated 5th August, 1805. After giving a particular description of the case of a Mr. James Dougherty, whom he had visited, in consultation with the late Dr. Riddle, he thus expresses himself. "Having never met with a case of fever attended with the above mentioned symptoms, that could not be traced to *contagion*, I cannot but believe, that, in this instance also, the patient had been exposed to the atmosphere of an infected vessel, or to persons, that had been sick, or in some way connected with the sick of the yellow fever." From the other letter, which is of date November 15th, 1805, I extract the following. "It has been said, that I have departed from the opinion I had heretofore entertained of the origin of the Yellow Fever, and, that, as in the present year, no *particular vessel* has been charged with the introduction of it, we were compelled to acknowledge its domestic origin. Such too appears to be the object and tenor of the last very extraordinary letter published by the Health Officer. In reply to this misrepresentation of my opinion, I have only to remark, that if I had before entertained any doubt of the origin of this calamity, the circumstances attending its appearance in the present season, would alone have satisfied me (as it has some others who have had opportunities of watching its early progress) that it is not the product of our own soil or climate, but is always introduced from *abroad*. The *intercourse*, I might, perhaps, say the *unlimited intercourse* which has existed between the quarantine ground and this city, by night as well as by day *sufficiently accounts for the pestilence of last season*.

“ It is unnecessary for me here to go into details : the clue to the investigation of the facts upon this subject, is in the possession of the proper authority, and I trust it will be pursued with the attention it merits and the import of the inquiry demands ; but I will venture to predict, that unless our legislature enacts a law, that will make it necessary to quarantine the *captains of vessels, the supercargoes, the seamen, their bedding, cloiing, &c.* as well as the *vessels* themselves, we shall never be secure from danger, and that the now growing commerce of our city will be sacrificed to the repetition of this terrible calamity.

“ While I thus recommend a more strict and efficient quarantine law to prevent the introduction of *contagion from abroad*, I hope it will not be thought, that I disregard the attention bestowed by our vigilant police in *preserving cleanliness at home*. On the contrary, it is conceded, that the Yellow Fever, like other contagious diseases, is never so readily propagated in a *pure* as in an *impure* atmosphere ; perhaps I may go farther and say, that the Yellow Fever more than any other contagious disease, that we know of, requires an impure air as its conductor. But that the *filth of our streets, our docks, new made grounds, grave yards or privies* have ever generated *this species* of fever I cannot believe. I should as readily ascribe the origin of *small pox, measles, or plague* to the *dirt of our gutters*, as to trace the Yellow Fever to putrid animal or vegetable matter ; and that I am not alone in this opinion, a vast body of testimony might be adduced.”

In the year 1719, there were some cases of Yellow Fever near the Old Slip ; but by the vigorous exertions of the Board of Health and the blessing of Divine Providence, it was suppressed before it had attained an alarming height. I now come to

*An account of the Yellow Fever, which has raged in the City of New-York, during the last three months.*

The disease, in this season, made its appearance in a different quarter from that, in which it had commenced its



depredations in former years. It had formerly uniformly begun some where on the East River; but now it was first seen in Rector-street, towards the North River, a part of the city, which had been heretofore deemed peculiarly healthy. The first notice, which was taken of this disease by the Board of Health, was on the 31st of July, 1822, of which the following is an abstract.

The following statement of facts made to the Board, by the President, was ordered to be published.

On the 17th of July, 1822, Doctor Walters had informed the President, that three of his patients, children of Martin Reeder, at No. 26 Rector-street, were labouring under a severe attack of fever; that he did not report them as cases of Yellow Fever; but requested, that the Resident Physician might visit them.

On the day following, the Resident Physician reported, that he had seen the said children, that Caroline aged 9 years had sickened on the 10th instant, Amanda aged 11 years on the same day, and John aged 15 years on the 16th. He pronounced, that their disease was Billious Fever. Caroline died on the same day, John on the 22d, and Amanda recovered.

The Resident Physician also reported, that he was informed, that Andrew Thomas, a clerk, in a grocery store, at the corner of Washington and Rector-streets, immediately opposite to Mr. Reeder's, had been taken sick on the 12th of July and carried to the New-York Hospital, where he died on the 16th following. Mr. Thomas was a young gentleman of irreproachable morals, and had only been in this city, a very few months. From what I have heard respecting his case, I think, that there is no doubt of his having died of Yellow Fever.

On the 20th the Resident Physician visited Miss Rose, a child of seven years, at the corner of Greenwich and Rector Streets, and reported, that she had sickened on the 16th of July of Billious Fever. She died on the 24th following.

On the 21st he visited John Whailley, a baker, aged 26 years, at the corner of Cliff and Ferry Streets. He had sickened on the 20th instant of Billious Fever, and on the 26th was convalescent.

On the 25th he visited Mr. Butler and his apprentice in Rector-street, between Greenwich and Lumber Streets, and reported them as convalescent.

On the 26th he visited Euphemia Dobson, aged 38 years, at No. 10 Beaver-street. She had sickened on the 24th and removed from the house of Mrs. Rose, in Rector-street, where she had assisted in nursing the child, who died there on the 24th instant; Mrs. Edwards, sister of Mrs. Rose and Mr. Leonard W. Archer, aged 23 years, nephew of Mrs. Rose, both of whom was residents in the same house, and had sickened on the 25th. These three he stated as being afflicted with Billious Fever.

He also informed the Board, that a Mrs. Waters, aged 58 years, had sickened in the same house, on the evening of the 24th, but had been removed to Brooklyn. This woman had not been seen by the Resident Physician; but he understood, that she had been indisposed for the last three months, and had died on the 29th with very malignant symptoms.

On the 29th he reported, that he had visited another child of Mr. Reeder and also Susan Buck, aged 11 years, at No. 24 Rector-street, opposite the house of Mr. Reeder, both of whom he pronounced to be sick of Billious Fever.

On the 30th he visited Mr. Jones at No. 115 Washington-street, who had sickened on the 27th, and John Hamilton, a cartman, who resided at No. 20 Howard-street, but who had his stand in the vicinity of Rector-street and who had sickened on the same day. Both of these, he reported to be Billious Fever.

On the 31st Dr. Neilson reported two cases of Yellow Fever, viz. Leonard W. Archer and Mrs. Edwards, both at the house of Mrs. Rose. On the 28th Dr. N. appeared before the Board of Health and declared them both to be Billious Fever. On this day the Resident Physician again visited them, and pronounced their cases to be Billious Fever. The Board previous to their adjournment on the 31st July declared, "that "no cases of fever had occurred in that vicinity, within the knowledge of the Board for the last three days.



On the 1st of August the Board again met, at 12 o'clock, the hour which had been agreed on to meet on every day, during the prevalence of fever. "No new case of the indisposition in Rector-street was reported; nor had there been any there for the last three days."

"Thus much," says Mr. Stone the intelligent editor of the Commercial Advertiser, "may be considered as a kind of official return, although we did not copy them from the minutes. What we are now about to commence was considered injudicious by some of the members, although his Honour the Mayor said, that it was better for editors to publish a full sketch of their proceedings, and let the whole facts, as they exist be known."

From all that we have been able to learn, and from the decided and unequivocal opinions of many of our most respectable physicians, we are of the opinion, that the city has been visited with several cases of *Yellow Fever*.

Dr. Quackenboss, however, does not believe, that the sickness in Rector-street is *Yellow Fever*. He still thinks it *bilious*. It is his opinion, that there is something noxious in the atmosphere of this district, where the sickness has originated. All agree, that it is a very bad fever. But as an evidence, that it is not *Yellow Fever*, he states, that those, who have recovered have been treated by *emetics*; and that no physician would think of giving an *emetic* to a patient supposed to be ill of *Yellow Fever*. It would be considered as being certain death. This sickness is atmospheric.

The board were principally occupied in suggesting and devising such preparatory measures as might be necessary, should the city be afflicted with sickness; but it was universally admitted, that there was then, but little cause of alarm."

I am very far from censuring the Board of Health or any of their officers. I conscientiously believe, that every gentleman connected with that body strove to the utmost of his power to avert the impending calamity; but I have little hesitation in expressing it as my opinion, that, if at the commencement of the disease, the infected district, which was then very small, had been sprinkled with lime, tan or charcoal, and the inhabitants had all re-

moved, it might have been checked in the bud. Upon this subject, however, I shall have occasion to make some observations hereafter. At present, I shall only make the following remark, of the correctness of which I have not the least doubt. About the beginning of August, in the year 1798, in consequence of the foul, unfinished state of some water lots on the East River, between Coenties and the Old Slip, upwards of 20 persons were attacked nearly about the same time, with what appeared to be *common colds*, some slightly, others more severely; but the general occurrence of the fact in that neighbourhood, led to a belief, that it arose from a *local cause* and that it threatened something serious. The foulness of the lots and especially two vacant ones, being receptacles of every kind of filth was considered as *that cause*, and in pursuance of official arrangements they were immediately covered with wholesome sand. I do not say, that these were cases of Yellow Fever, because I have no document before me to warrant the assertion; but I well know, that the disease, by whatever name, it might then have been called, proved fatal in several instances and that the effect of the remedy prescribed, was a general restoration of the sick.

But to return from my digression, Mr. Stone goes on thus "The Mayor stated, that there had been some flying reports, of fresh cases this morning; but on inquiry no authority was found for them. Dr. Quackenboss returned while the Board was in session, from a visit to Mrs. Rutherford, corner of Broad and Pearl-streets, where he had been invited by Dr. Stevens. Mrs. R. he said, had been taken sick on Wednesday of last week, but had kept about till yesterday. Her case was precisely the same as those in Rector-street, viz. Bilious Fever.

Dr. Hicks mentioned the case of Mrs. Moran, next door to Mrs. Rose's, who had been taken ill, last evening, but was then recovered.

We have thus stated all that transpired at this meeting, which is of interest to the public; and were it not that silence would tend more to awaken suspicion, we should not have been so particular, for we really do not think it

necessary. We have dealt frankly with the public, and given our opinion, and by so doing have promptly redeemed a former pledge. We repeat it we do not think there is a cause of alarm out of the infected district."

The young man (Archer) mentioned in the report of yesterday, died this morning with every symptom of a strong and decided case of Yellow Fever.

At a meeting of the Board, on the 5th of August, the Resident Physician reported that Mrs. Naphthali Philips at the corner of Broadway and Chamber-streets, had been sick of Yellow Fever. The family had resided at No. 98 Greenwich-street, from whence they had moved on the 30th ult. where Mrs. P. sickened on the evening of the 1st inst. and died on the 5th.

As no doubt now existed respecting the prevalence of a malignant disease in Rector-street and its vicinity, the Board directed, that the following recommendation should be published for the observance of their fellow citizens. "A number of cases of fever having occurred in Rector-street and its immediate vicinity, and it being the opinion of the Board, that the atmosphere of that section of the city is unfavourable to the health of the inhabitants and others, who may be disposed to resort to it, they hereby advise and recommend, that all persons residing in or doing business in Rector-street, between Lumber and Washington-streets, or its vicinity, remove therefrom immediately, and that they and all others abstain from resorting to said district, and it is further recommended, that the citizens generally cause lime to be forthwith thrown in their privies and also in the gutters in front of their respective houses, and use every means in their power to remove from their premises every cause of nuisance or infection and to keep their cellars and yards dry and clean."

On the 6th August, Dr. Ireland reported, that Mary Spraight, at No. 258 Hudson-street, was a case of Yellow Fever. This was referred to the Resident Physician.

The President then read to the Board a letter, which he had addressed to the Health Officer with his answer. The President suggested whether it might not be expedient for the health of the city, that further regulations

be imposed on vessels arriving from suspected parts between the months of May and October. He had also requested the Health Officer to inform him, whether, in his opinion, the Rector-street fever could be attributed to some one of the following vessels, viz. the Nilo, the Shamrock, or the Florida, which had been at the wharves near that street.

In answer to these inquiries, the Health Officer replied, that after long consideration and reflection on the subject, he had been led to the painful result, of expressing it as his opinion, that vessels coming from suspicious foreign ports, between the 20th of May and 10th of October should not be permitted to lie in the North River South of Spring-street, nor in the East River below Walnut-street, near Corlaers' Hook.

With respect to the fever in Rector-street, he expressed it as his opinion, that the vessels named by the President could not be considered as infected; and he would rather be disposed to attribute it to a quantity of Havannah sugar in old boxes, that had been landed in that vicinity during the warm weather in July from the *Spanish Soldier* and the *Eliza Jane*, and he detailed at length the facts and reasons, by which he had been led to form that conclusion.

Dr. Hicks reported Matilda Hill, as a case of Yellow Fever. She had sickened on the 4th instant, in the infected district, and had been removed to Albany street, in the suburbs of the city. This was referred to the Resident Physician.

A memorial was presented from the inhabitants, residing in the vicinity of Kip's bay, remonstrating against the occupation of a house, which had been taken for the accommodation of the sick, in case that measure should be deemed necessary. It was resolved, that the Board would take the subject into consideration.

A motion was made to fence in the infected district at Rector-street and its vicinity, and some discussion took place on the propriety of the measure. Alderman Fairlie wished to obtain the opinion of the Resident Physician who having said, that he did not think that it was then necessary, the proposition was rejected.

Dr. Hicks reported, that he had visited Mrs. Rose, at No. 16 Fletcher-street, from Rector-street, where she had attended in the family of her Son, Mr. Rose. Patrick Price, a passenger from on board the *Empress* from Charleston, at No. 11 Roosevelt-street, who being sick of Intermittent Fever, was sent to the New York Hospital. Christopher Blochber, tin worker, 57 Rutger-street, ill of Bilious Fever and Henry Millspard corner of Houston and Sullivan-streets, a labourer, who had wrought in some stores in Washington at the foot of Rector-street. This man was a patient of Dr. Blackley, who called his disease Bilious Fever; but it was deemed suspicious. Miss Matilda Hill, who had been reported yesterday died this morning.

Alderman Fairlie moved, that, in future, all reports of the Resident and other Physicians should be made in writing, which was adopted.

The President read a reply from the Governor in answer to an application, which had been made for the use of the buildings, at Fort Richmond near the narrows for the use of the sick, in case it should be deemed expedient to resort to that measure. His Excellency most cheerfully granted the request, under a full conviction, that the public property would be taken care of.

A communication was received from J. R. Burdett, Esq. an authorised agent of the Board of Health at Philadelphia, now at the Mansion House in this city, requesting information as to the nature, extent and origin of the fever, which had commenced in Rector-street. This was referred to the President of the Board and Health Commissioners.

A paper was read from Dr. John C. Strœbel, communicating a recipe for *the cure of the Yellow Fever*, which was ordered to be laid on the table.

Alderman Taylor moved, that the infected district be fenced up, on which proposition considerable discussion took place, particularly as it respected the boundaries, &c. Aldermen Fairlie and Paulding as well as the Resident Physician, opposed the motion, on the ground, that for so little cause, the Board would not be justified in striking so heavy a blow at the commerce of this large district.

The President and Alderman Taylor were in favour of the motion. The former had proposed it on the 1st instant. It was observed, that in other cities and that, in this city in the year 1819, such a course had been attended with the most salutary consequences. It was readily admitted, that our Physicians had been then all agreed with respect to the nature of the disease; but that now though "doctors differed," they all united in this opinion, viz. that the *atmosphere in that district was impure and dangerous*.

The motion was carried and the following district ordered to be fenced in, viz. Rector-street, at the intersection of Lumber-street, Washington-street from Pier No. 3 and including No. 4; and Greenwich-street, at the intersection of Carlisle and Washington-streets.

On the 8th August, there was no case reported. The following occurred on the 9th, the Resident Physician reported that Miss Roberts, at No. 38 Lumber-street, directly in the rear of Trinity Church was sick of Yellow Fever. He also stated, that Doctor Boyd had reported to him the three following cases, viz. Miss Muchetta at the corner of Rector and Lumber-streets, who had been moved to Newark; Miss Myers in Lumber-street, third door from Rector-street and Mrs. Taylor in Rector-street, next to the corner of Greenwich-street, who was sent to Harlaem. Dr. Perkins informed the Board, that Mr. Ward at No. 36 Lumber-street, was sick of Bilious Malignant or Yellow Fever. Drs. Hosack and Francis reported the case of Mrs. Van Winkle, at No. 35 Warren-street, whose symptoms had, on that day, become favourable. The family had removed from Greenwich near Rector-street a few days before, and Dr. Congor reported James Turner, at No. 145 Orange-street, who had lately been at work at the foot of Rector-street, as being sick of Yellow Fever.

A motion was made, that some of these cases should be referred to the Resident Physician. That gentleman observed, that this course could be no longer necessary. It was now agreed on all hands, that the Yellow Fever was in the city, and it would therefore, be proper, that the reports of respectable physicians should be received by the Board, at once. This was agreed to.



As the diversity of opinion, which had, at first, existed concerning the character of the disease, which had commenced its ravages amongst us had now ceased, I shall not deem it necessary to notice the cases as they may hereafter occur daily, unless something peculiar be attached to them. It may be proper to observe however, before I proceed farther, that there must have been something peculiarly noxious in the state of the atmosphere in Rector-street and its immediate vicinity, as every case of the disease had either originated in that small spot or could be evidently traced to have proceeded from it, and that while the devouring pestilence was spreading death and destruction in that quarter every other part of the city was full, as healthy as usual at this season of the year. It is, likewise, remarkable that in all places to which the infected had been removed, whether in the city or country, although they may have died of the disease, there had not, at that time, been a single instance, of its having been communicated to any one. It was farther well known, that a gentleman from this city had in the month of August, gone to Boston, where he took his lodgings in one of the most genteel hotels, in which there were a great many boarders, that he was there taken sick of Yellow Fever and died; but that no one of the inmates had suffered the least inconvenience, in consequence of that circumstance. In the year 1793, when this dreadful disease raged so terribly in Philadelphia, so great was the panic, which had seized, not only the vicinity of that city, but I may say, the whole continent, that it was extremely difficult for the unfortunate fugitives to find a place of refuge in any quarter; but experience has shewn that the fears, which appeared, upon that occasion were entirely groundless, and that in cases of the prevalence of an epidemic in a city, the inhabitants of the country have little or no reason of being afraid to receive the sick into their houses. It may, therefore, be presumed, that such inhuman caution and barbarous measures as were adopted in the year 1793 will never again disgrace our country.

With respect to the inhabitants, who resided in the infected district, as it was very properly called, there were

many who continued to remain and to prosecute their usual business, notwithstanding the earnest and repeated admonitions of the Board, that they should provide for the safety of themselves and families by an early removal. Of these, there were not a few, whose circumstances were so easy, that they could have complied with this advice without much inconvenience. They were lulled, however, into a fatal security, and several paid for their obstinacy by the loss of their lives. There appears to be a propriety in recording this fact, which is, at present, well known to our fellow-citizens, as it is hoped, that, in case of the occurrence of another calamity of the kind, it may serve as a solemn admonition to all persons, that it would be their duty, as well as for their interest, to comply with the friendly admonitions of the guardians of the public health, who, it cannot be supposed, will ever make an alarm without due cause. I may farther say, with confidence, that with respect to our late calamity, by far the greatest part of the evil, which ensued, might have been averted by a speedy departure of the inhabitants from the infected district, as it is a fact, which cannot be controverted, that *a fire, however kindled, cannot continue to burn, without combustible materials.* Had this simple truth been duly attended to, the lives of many valuable citizens would have been saved, and that dreadful alarm which ensued, and occasioned the removal of many thousands of our inhabitants to the great injury of their families, the almost total suspension of trade, commerce and manufactures, and a damage to our city, which it will require some years to repair, might have been prevented.

I cannot help censuring the conduct of those, who from an ill-timed economy, chose to remain in the infected district and to pursue their usual business to the great danger of their own health and that of their families. They ought to have recollected, that "self-preservation is the first law of nature," and that the earning of a few hundred dollars, was an object of trivial importance when put in competition with the loss of life. But by continuing in this spot, they absolutely manifested something, which seemed to border on insanity. It was almost deserted, and if money was their object, how or from what custo-



mers could they make it? But, alas! it too often happens, that "men are lost for want of thought."

But whilst I blame those, who remained in the infected district, after the solemn admonitions, which they had received to leave it, there were others, whose conduct was still more reprehensible, and who paid dearly for their temerity. Several persons, chiefly young men, actuated by an idle curiosity, or, perhaps, led by that propensity, which is so incident to human nature, to do that, which we are forbidden, entered the interdicted district, and soon afterwards paid for their folly by the loss of their lives. I do not say, that when a man is directed by public authority to visit an infected spot, he ought not to go. He is then on duty, engaged in endeavouring to promote the welfare of his fellow creatures, and may reasonably expect the protection of his God; but he, who goes to such a place merely to see it, because he has been told, that he ought not to go there, or more probably to shew himself as a braggadocio, can have no such confidence.

After these observations, which I trust will not appear to be improper, I return to the proceedings of the Board of Health.

A letter was read from the Health Commissioners of Boston requesting information, respecting the character, degree and extent of the fever in this city, that they might be enabled to adopt suitable measures for their own safety, without resorting to unnecessary steps, which might interrupt the intercourse between the two cities. This letter was couched in the most friendly terms and a suitable answer was read and ordered to be transmitted.

The Board then directed an extension of the limits of the infected district, viz. that they should go so far as to include Rector-street to Broadway, and Lumber-street to Broadway.

The reason of this extension is easily explained. Some cases of fever had made their appearance, at a short distance, to which it had been at first confined.

On the 10th of August, Doctor Neilson reported Mary Roe, a mulatto woman, as a case of Yellow Fever. She had been taken sick on the 8th instant, while nursing Mr.

Edwards, at the house of Mrs. Rose at the corner of Greenwich and Rector Streets; and who had since been removed to a house in the rear of No. 65 Warren-street. This case is mentioned in order to shew, that there must have been in this house as well as in that of Mr. Reeder, or in the vicinity of these houses, some cause of a very deleterious nature, or so many persons would not have been there taken sick, almost at the same time. What that cause was, has not, as yet been ascertained; but as it might possibly be the means of preventing the occurrence of a future calamity of the kind, it is a subject, which well deserves the most serious investigation. Whether it can ever be discovered, I do not pretend to say; but it is surely an object of so great importance, that it would be highly proper, that the experiment should be made in real earnest.

The assistants of the Board reported, that they had visited the infected district, in conformity to the directions, which they had received, to use their utmost exertions to prevail on the inhabitants to remove, and had been very successful, as they, in general, seemed to be willing to comply with the recommendation of the Board. They farther mentioned, that there were about six poor families, whom it would be necessary to assist in moving and to provide for them in other respects.

The following preamble and resolutions were adopted; “Whereas the Board of Health is now officially informed, that the disorder prevailing in Rector-street and its vicinity is *Yellow or Malignant Fever*, and being of the opinion, that the removal of the inhabitants from that district of the city is indispensable, Therefore

*Resolved*, that the Mayor be, and he is hereby authorised to cause the removal of all persons, who shall be found within the infected district, as now inclosed by the fences erected on the several avenues, leading to the same.

*Resolved*, that such of the inhabitants of the infected district, as are unable to provide for themselves, be permitted to occupy either of the Public Buildings, at the Narrows, belonging to the State, or the buildings provided by this Board, at Kipp’s Bay, under the direction

of the Committee on that subject, and that the Commissioners of the Alms-House be instructed to furnish what may be deemed necessary for their sustenance, for that establishment, should the circumstances of any require that assistance." Here was manifested a degree of humanity, which abundantly speaks for itself.

*Resolved*, that in the case of foul gutters and other nuisances, where the owners do not comply with the recommendation to remove or correct them, the assistants of the Board shall enter complaints against them to the Attorney of the Corporation.

A report from Dr. Bayley, our Health Officer at the Quarantine Ground, was read and occasioned some debate.

The Recorder moved, that, in consequence of said letter, it should be resolved, that no vessel arriving from warm climates, and which had been subjected to all the purifying regulations at the Quarantine Ground, should be suffered to come up to the wharves of this city, without permission from the Board of Health, and in case that they should do so, that they be directed to move *immediately*."

In opposition to this motion, it was said, that a measure of this kind was altogether unnecessary, as it had been clearly proved in the case of the vessel called the *Enterprise*, that, during the warm weather, it is impossible to cleanse an infected vessel thoroughly.

That ship had underwent all the usual methods of purification; but immediately after the men returned on board, a number of them were taken sick and the officers were again obliged to send them ashore.

After some further discussion, the motion was varied so as to read thus: "that no vessel from foreign ports shall be permitted to come to the wharves of this city, without permission from the President and Health Commissioners."

On the 11th of August, little business was done. The principal occurrences were as follow. A remonstrance was received from sundry of the inhabitants of Warren-street against the removal of sick persons, into that neighbourhood, which was laid on the table.

And the following gentlemen were appointed as a committee to provide for those removing from the infected district, who may be destitute of the means of providing for themselves, viz. Aldermen Wyckoff, Williams and Taylor.

On the 12th of August, a remonstrance was received from sundry of the inhabitants of the Ninth Ward against the occupation of the house at Kipp's Bay, which was laid on the table.

The Recorder moved, that a committee should be appointed to inquire into the expediency of prohibiting any further interments in Trinity Church Yard. The motion was adopted, and the Recorder, Alderman Hall and Dr. Dyckman appointed to compose the said committee.

On August 13th, the following report was read. "The Recorder from the committee, to whom was referred a resolution of the Board, directing them to inquire into the expediency of regulating or preventing the interment of the dead in Trinity Church Yard, during the continuance of the present epidemic, reported,

That they had ascertained from the returns of the Sexton of Trinity Church, that there had been buried in the yard thereunto belonging since the first day of May last, one hundred and forty-seven persons.

That they had also ascertained from different sources, on which they thought, implicit reliance might be placed, that the yard of that church was, at times, offensive to persons in its vicinity and that in the evenings especially, the exhalations had been such, as, perhaps, to have been dangerous to the health of the citizens in its immediate neighbourhood.

They further recommended to the consideration of the Board, the following particulars, viz. that as long as burials should take place in that church yard, a crowd of persons will be crowded very near to the infected district and in many places, not more than 80 feet from the residence of persons, who have sickened with Yellow Fever.

The Committee likewise, reported that they had conferred with several highly respectable gentlemen of that church, who gave it as their decided opinion, that any

measure, which the Board might deem essential for the preservation of the public health. The committee, therefore recommended the following resolutions, viz.

That no grave be permitted to be opened or dug in Trinity Church yard, until the further order of the Board of Health, under the *penalty of one hundred dollars*, and also that any sexton or other persons, who shall permit any burial in the said Church yard, in violation of the above resolution or who shall assist in opening or digging any grave there, shall be liable to the same penalty. It was further resolved, that, in case any vault should be opened in Trinity Church during the warm season, for the interment of any person, it be recommended to the citizens, not to follow it in the yard.

The report and resolutions were adopted, as also a request, that the Common Council would pass an ordinance, by which the penalties before mentioned, could be enforced. This was complied with at the next meeting of the Board.

On August 14th, the President after mentioning a few reports, read one of Dr. Neilson's respecting Mary Woods, who was sick at No. 130 Greenwich-street, with symptoms of Yellow Fever. She was sent to the buildings at the Narrows, and was, as I believe, the first patient, who went to that place. Previous attention had been paid, however, to get the establishment on a proper footing, and she was, no doubt taken much better care of than she would have been, if she had remained in the city.

The President suggested the propriety of suppressing the names of persons reported as sick of Yellow Fever. He thought it could do no good, and that, if continued, it might be the means of distressing the persons afflicted as well as their friends. Alderman Fairlie stated, that he highly approved of this course, that he had made the suggestion on a former occasion and continued of the same opinion still. He said, that the papers often precede the sick to the places, where they might be received, and if the names of the afflicted were mentioned, it might do injury instead of good. It was then carried, that the names of the sick should not hereafter be published.

The President stated, that there had been many com-

plaints against the physicians, who, it was believed, did not report all the cases of Yellow Fever, which came to their knowledge. He deemed it an object of importance, that, in this respect, they should be compelled to discharge their duty. It was observed, that the law, which had been enacted, some years ago, upon that subject, was fully sufficient and that there was no necessity for any new regulations.

The Board met on August 15th, when reports were received from two physicians, respecting two persons, whom they stated to be sick of Yellow Fever, the former at No. 27 Mulberry-street, the latter at No. 6 Roosevelt-street; but they had both been in the infected district a few days before. A Mr. Ackerly a clerk in one of the public departments in the city of Washington, about seven days ago, had landed in or near the infected district, and lodged in a house near Canal-street, where he was taken sick of Yellow Fever on the 4th day after his arrival and died on the third day thereafter.

A young gentleman had been taken sick in Carlisle-street, about three days before. The family physician was sent for; but did not chose to venture into the infected district. In order, therefore, that the aid of this respectable physician might be obtained, the youth was sent out of town. On the day thereafter his brother sickened at the same place and was, likewise, forthwith sent to the country, where, in a short time, they both recovered.

August 16. Two cases were reported, one of which it may be proper to mention, viz. Robert Newell at No. 383 Greenwich, who was stated by Dr. Brush to be sick of Yellow Fever. This man had lately been employed on board of the Steam Boat William Penn, and had been within a fortnight in the infected district, where he went upon no kind of business; but merely that he might have it to say, that he had been there. The Resident Physician, who had, likewise, visited him, said, that there was no doubt of his case being that of Yellow Fever.

August 17th, Dr. Neilson reported that a woman was sick of Yellow Fever at No. 82 Cedar-street. She had been employed in attending the sick, at the house of Mrs. Rose in Rector-street, a house, which appears to have



been, in a peculiar manner, a den of pestilence. Another case was reported by Dr. Francis of a person at No. 39 Chapel-street, who had been frequently in the vicinity of the infected district, a few days before.

A letter was read from Dr. Bailey the Health Officer, requesting the opinion of the Board respecting the cargoes of vessels, which he might deem to contain matter of contagion or infection and asking that they would be pleased to advise him how he should act in such cases.

Alderman Fairlie was opposed to making any further regulations on the subject. His only recommendation would be, that the existing health laws be rigorously enforced. The Board of Health he said, was not a professional body, nor could they undertake to decide upon the origin, nature or extent of infection or contagion, especially as they were questions, which had not been settled by the faculty, and in which, he believed, that they had made no material progress for the last twenty-seven years.

Dr. Dyckman made a few remarks on the subject and then offered the following resolutions

*“Resolved*, that it is the opinion of this Board, that no part of the cargo of any vessel coming within the 6th section of the Health Law be permitted to be brought into this city, if the Health Officer suspects, that such cargo may convey with it infection or contagion.” This was adopted.

A communication was received stating, that a corpse followed only by one man, had, on that morning, at an early hour, been brought to Potters' Field and left exposed above ground. The body still remained there and no one would go to bury it. The Assistants were directed to attend to this case, which was done immediately. It is not very easy to account for this circumstance. There is in all cases, a note required from the physician or some other person stating the disease, of which the patient had died, and an order from a magistrate directing the interment, but here it appears, that neither of these regulations had been attended to.

August 18th, Doctor Hicks reported a man, who had been removed from No. 55 Washington-street to Bank-street, also his daughter Mary aged about 7 years, both



of whom had taken sick on the day preceding. The person alluded to was a grocer and in easy circumstances. He had been repeatedly urged by the officers of the Board to leave the infected district ; but their advice was in vain. In spite of the earnest solicitations of these gentlemen, as well as some of his warmest friends he remained inflexible and continued in his habitation till he received a peremptory order from the Mayor to quit it. He is now numbered among the dead and might have very probably been still alive, if he had taken the advice, which had been given to him, in time. A report was also received from Dr. Perkins of a lady sick at No. 171 Greenwich-street, who had moved on the 16th from No. 111 in the same street, which is within the prescribed district.

August 19th, the Resident Physician, to whom had been referred the two cases reported by Dr. Hicks, in Bank-street, on yesterday, declared, that they were decided cases of Yellow Fever. Dr. Donaldson reported ———, a member of the same family as above mentioned sick of "*a disease commonly called Yellow Fever.*" (These were his words) and also another of the same disease at No. 44 Leonard-street. They were both referred to the Resident Physician. Dr. Richard Seaman reported the case of a man at No. 93 Harman-street. He is a dock builder and was in the infected district a few days before he sickened.

A person at the corner of Washington and Chamber Streets, who had been removed from the corner of Cedar and Greenwich Streets was reported by Dr. Pascalis.

August 20th, the Resident Physician, to whom the two cases mentioned yesterday by Dr. Donaldson had been referred, reported that they had both Yellow Fever. He also reported, that one of the cases named by a citizen yesterday at No. 102 Water-street, was Yellow Fever. All the calamity, which befel the persons above referred to, was clearly traced to the infected district.

Dr. Cutter reported a person sick of Yellow Fever at No. 5 Chapel-street. He had removed from No 32 Lumber-street on the 15th and had been in the infected district, a few days before. Dr. Hicks, also, reported the

case of a person sick of Yellow Fever, at No. 40 Washington-street, who had been at work, next to Rector-street. He was taken sick on the 18th.

August 21st, Dr. Yates reported, that of three persons, who had been removed from Carlisle-street to Amboy, about ten days since, one had died on the 19th inst. and that the others were convalescent, (Carlisle-street is in the infected district.)

Some other cases were reported on this day, but as nothing extraordinary attended them, it is deemed unnecessary to notice them.

Orders had been given to the Assistants of the Board to arrest, such suspicious persons as might be found lurking within the limits of the prescribed district. They on this day, laid hold of two of this description, whom the officers of the police ordered to be confined for sixty days.\*

August 22d. On this day three patients were reported, one by Doctors Hardy and Hosack, one by Dr. Neilson and the third by Dr. Bergier. They had all been removed from the infected district.

August 23d. Four cases were reported this day. Though they had sickened in different parts of the city, it had been ascertained, that they had come from the infected district, a few days before they became indisposed.

August 24th, Dr. John W. Francis, reported the case of Mrs. ———, at the corner of Washington and Liberty-streets. He suggested the expediency of removing her from the infected district and observed, that she was

\* The confinement of the persons above mentioned for so short a time can scarcely be deemed an adequate punishment. Why were they there? Was it from motives of idle curiosity? This can scarcely be believed. No. They went for the purpose of making their own the property of the unfortunate absentees. It would have been a happy circumstance, if the attempt to rob had rested here, but alas! such is the depravity of human nature, that burglaries in the infected part of the city have been frequent, and the villains, who committed them, have in several instances, with a wantonness, not easily accounted for, destroyed that property, which they could not conveniently take away. A crime of this nature, at a time so calamitous, deserves the most condign punishment, and it is hoped, that all those, who have been concerned in these diabolical depredations will be soon apprehended and meet with the reward due to their works.

then in a better situation to be removed than she had been the day before. Alderman Wyckoff stated, that her husband peremptorily refused to have her removed. No order was taken upon the subject. Here the Board acted with delicacy and very probably, under all the circumstances of the case, with propriety ; but agreeably to the 32d section of the " Law relative to the public health in the city of New-York, passed 9th March, 1805" she might have been removed whether her husband was willing or not. The clause of the section to which I allude is in the following words, " the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty shall have power in their discretion to remove or order the removal of *all persons* and things infected by or tainted with pestilential matter to such place or places, as may, in their opinion, most conduce to the preservation of the public health." Five other cases were reported.

On the same day Saturday, the 24th August, our city presented the appearance of a town besieged. From day break till night, one line of carts, containing boxes, merchandize and effects, were seen moving towards Greenwich Village and the upper parts of the city. Carriages and hacks, waggons and horsemen were scouring the streets and filling the roads ; persons with anxiety strongly marked on their countenances and with hurried gait were bustling through the streets. Temporary stores and offices were erecting and even on the ensuing day (Sunday) carts were in motion and the saw and hammer busily at Work. Within a few days thereafter, the Custom House, the Post Office, the Banks, the Insurance Offices, and the printers of Newspapers located themselves in the village or in the upper part of Broadway, where they were free from the impending danger, and these places almost instantaneously became the seat of the immense business usually carried on, in this great metropolis.

A communication from Doctor D. W. Kissam was received recommending the use of pyroligneous acid, and stating, that the necessary expense would not exceed eight hundred dollars. This was referred to the Health Committee.

A communication was also read from A. I. W. Butler,

stating, that a cargo of hides had been deposited in a store in Rector-street, which had become so putrid and nauseous as sufficiently to develop the cause of the prevailing pestilence. He asked for an investigation of the subject, and suggested the propriety of setting fire to the premises, in case that his information should be found correct.

In confirmation of the above, the Mayor stated, that two gentlemen, whom he named, had called upon him in the morning, and stated facts and circumstances substantially corroborating the above. He observed, however, that the Assistants had diligently examined the district and could not find the least trace of the supposed nuisance. He concluded by proposing, that the following notice should be published, which was unanimously agreed to.

“BOARD OF HEALTH, August 24, 1822.

The Board of Health are desirous, that their Assistants should examine and ascertain whether any noxious or impure article has been left in any of the store houses or premises within the infected district, and in order that this object may be effected, they request the occupants within the said district, either to inform the President of the Board, at what place their keys may be found, or to leave them at the Mayor's Office properly labelled, Care will be taken, that no person shall enter the said premises, except the Assistants of the Board, and the keys will be returned to the owners.”

A communication was read from a citizen now residing at West Farms, recommending, that the stems of tobacco should be burnt in the infected district for the purpose of purifying the atmosphere. This was referred to the Health Committee.

Alderman Williams proposed, that, in future, the names of the sick should be published, as the public feeling seemed to call for the measure. Alderman Mead was in favour of the proposition, except in those cases, where the relatives or friends might be averse to the publication. The proposition, however, was not acted upon at that meeting.

August 25th, one person, who had passed a night, about a week before, at No. 55 Broadway, was reported as being sick of Yellow Fever. Five other persons were reported as being sick of the same disease, some of whom had not been in the infected district. These cases were referred to the Resident Physician, who on the day following stated, that they were ill of Bilious Remittent Fever.

August 26th, two persons were reported by the Resident Physician as being sick of Yellow Fever, who had been in the infected district. Two other cases were reported, one by Dr. Stevens, in Broadway above White-street, from No. 101 Broadway, the other by Doctor Hicks, at No. 12 Thames-street.\*

The Committee of Health, to whom had been referred the communication of Doctor D. Kissam recommending the use of the pyroligneous acid, to purify the infected region, reported, that not being professional men, they had referred the subject to Doctor Hosack for his opinion, which had been received and was read to the Board by the Mayor. Doctor H. concurred in opinion with Dr. Kissam, respecting the sanative qualities of the acid, gave a learned description of its properties, and recommended it as highly useful in purifying sewers and ships at Quarantine. He observed, that it was an excellent antiseptic; but did not readily assume the constituent properties of vapour, so that its effects in purifying the air might be very doubtful. On the whole, he suggested the propriety of a limited experiment.

\* On the 26th August, we were likewise informed of the following facts, in the Evening Post of that date, viz. that two of Mr. Taylor's family, who had removed from No. 111 Greenwich-street between Rector and Thames-streets, a few days since, are sick at Tappan. They remained four or five days in the infected district after it was fenced up, and did not remove until Mrs. Taylor was taken down with fever, who has since died.

Mr. Brown, who resided in Lumber-street and had kept a livery stable, was found dead in his house on that morning. His family removed some days before, and Mr. Brown remained behind to take care of his business. At what time he sickened, or when he died, cannot be ascertained. Like many others, he bid defiance to the disease which prevailed in that neighbourhood, and paid for his temerity with the loss of his life.

The subject was referred back to the same committee with powers to confer farther with Dr. Hosack, and to act in the premises as to them, in their discretion, might appear proper.

Alderman Fairlie moved, that, in future, the names of physicians reporting cases of Yellow Fever be omitted. He stated it as a possible event, that empirics, who had convalescent patients might report them as cases of Yellow Fever, in order to gain a temporary celebrity from the publication of their names in the papers. The motion was adopted.

August 27th. On this day, nothing remarkable occurred. Four cases of Yellow Fever were reported, one of whom from No. 84 Broadway had, on the day before, been sent to the Quarantine Ground.

August 28th. Four cases were reported. Now it evidently appeared, that the disease began to spread, as one of the sick persons resided at No. 35 Pearl-street, and had not been nearer the infected district than Wiley and Halstead's store, at the corner of New and Wall Streets.

A communication was received from the Reverend Mr. George Upfold, rector of St. Luke's Church, suggesting the expediency of closing St. Paul's Church, for the present. No order, however, was taken on the subject, as it was not doubted, that the vestry, who were well known to be a very intelligent body, would do that which was proper on the occasion. Here it may not be improper to observe, that from this time, divine service was discontinued in all the places of public worship in the lower parts of the city. This was, undoubtedly proper; for, though every christian must consider it as an incumbent duty to meet with his brethren on the first day of the week to render thanks to the great Jehovah for the favours he has conferred upon him and to implore his mercy and protection in future; yet in the case of pestilence, the assembling of a large body of people must be obviously improper, and the pious man will remain at home and adore his Creator in his closet.

A report was read from the Assistants of the Board, stating that they had examined with the utmost care the



stores in the infected district, and that no damaged hides were to be found within them.

A long and very interesting communication from Dr. Alexander H. Stephens was read, expressing it as his opinion, that no practical benefit could arise from the use of the muriatic gas, and but little from the use of the pyroligneous acid in purifying the infected district. He believed, that the only effectual remedy, for that purpose, would be the application of some impermeable covering upon the surface of the ground. This was referred to the Health Committee.

August 29th. Eight persons were reported as being sick of Yellow Fever, all of whose cases were traced to the infected district.

Alderman Mead moved, that the names of all the cases reported be published, unless a particular request should be made by the relatives to the contrary. The Recorder thought that the names of the physicians and patients should be published together, as, in his opinion, there was no need of concealment. Alderman Hall spoke in favour of the motion. He said, that it was the duty of the Board, to be guided by the will of their constituents, and he was persuaded, that, in the present instance, a vast majority of the citizens wished, that the names of the sick should be published. The motion was carried.

It was then moved, that the names of the physicians should be published; but this motion was lost by the casting vote of the President.

The following resolution was passed, viz. that the physicians be requested to communicate to the Board the names of all their patients, who may die of Yellow Fever, in order that they may be published.

The permission to publish the names of persons reported as being sick of Yellow Fever was certainly very judicious. A vast majority of our fellow citizens disapproved of the vote for suppressing them. The dissatisfaction was universal, and the very circumstance that any thing was suppressed, gave great cause of alarm. In a case of this kind, it will ever be found to be the best policy to disguise nothing, if the object be to prevent unnecessary alarm.



August 31st. Three cases were reported, concerning whom it is unnecessary to make any observations.

The Assistants reported, that they had inspected four more stores in the infected district, and had been able to discover no putrid hides nor any other substance, which could possibly infect the atmosphere.

A very interesting communication was received from Dr. Samuel Ackerly, expressing a disbelief in the practical utility of the pyroligneous acid in purifying the atmosphere of this infected district. He said that he had no belief in the doctrine of contagion, and that all the cases, in the present season, had tended to confirm him in his opinion. He was willing to believe, that the prevailing disorder was imported; but he enumerated sundry causes, which have a powerful agency in keeping it alive and spreading it after it has been introduced, such as narrow streets, dirty lanes, filthy sinks, burying grounds, &c. He mentioned particularly the burying ground of Trinity Church, and, in general, the impropriety of allowing cemeteries to be continued in large cities. By these, he believed, that the water was rendered bad and that noxious exhalations would arise through the earth from decayed bodies.

Having proved, as he believed, the uselessness of the pyroligneous and muriatic acids, he recommended the free use of lime, charcoal, ashes, and tan or oak bark, to counteract the noxious exhalations arising from the causes above mentioned. The antiseptic qualities of the vegetable alkali contained in ashes, charcoal, and oak bark, he said, were too well known to need any comment. The streets should be covered with the bark, and sinks, privies, cellars, &c. should be purified with lime and charcoal mixed with ashes, &c. This was referred to the Health Committee.

Dr. Ackerly's mode of arresting the progress of the fever was, at the time he suggested it, in general, deemed to be a visionary project, and excited no great inquiry into its utility. To his plan, the Board, however, in a great measure resorted, at last, and I believe, that it is now the opinion of many, that it was the means of arresting the progress of the disease, and rescuing from death a number of valuable lives. Of this subject, however, I have occasion to speak hereafter.

From the 2d to the 6th September nothing extraordinary occurred. On that day, a physician reported a Mr. L. Bush, as being sick of Yellow Fever at No 76 Mott-street, who had been employed in the Sugar-House, in Liberty-street, between Nassau and William-streets. As this case was considered to be somewhat out of the infected district, it was, on motion of Alderman Wyckoff, referred to the Resident Physician, who, on the ensuing day, declared it to be a case of Yellow Fever. From the statement of the patient, it appeared, that he had not been lower than the place of his employment for a month past. Nine other cases were reported, on that day, several of whom could not well be traced to the infected district. The prospects therefore, wore a more threatening aspect then at any former period of our calamity.

On the same day a communication was received from the Mayor and ordered to be published. In this he stated, that a number of stores and other premises, which he particularly specified, had been examined by the Assistants and reported to him as containing no article injurious to the health of that part of the city known by the name of the *infected district*, and particularly, that there were *no hides stored there*. He added, that as it was desirable, that every store in the district, should be examined, in order that the public might be satisfied whether any putrid or noxious articles were deposited within them, it was recommended, that the owners of stores who had heretofore omitted to leave their keys agreeably to the notice of the Board of Health, be again requested to comply with the same.

He stated, that several houses had been broken open, in which although no great property had been stolen, much wanton devastation had been committed. He believed, that the perpetrators of these villainies were boys. He was correct, in his opinion as four young men are already in the State Prison condemned to hard labour for fourteen years for the commission of this atrocious offence.

September 9th, a resolution was presented by the Recorder, that a committee be appointed to take into consideration the application of some of the means, which had been suggested to the Board for eradicating the di-

sease now prevalent in a part of this city. The motion was not then carried; but adopted on the 11th, when a committee consisting of the Recorder, Alderman Hall and Alderman M'Queen were appointed, and the sum of seven hundred and fifty dollars appropriated to carry into effect the objects of the resolution.

From the 9th to the 14th September, nothing occurred worthy of notice. On the last of these days a report, of which the following is the substance, was received and ordered to be published.

### TO THE PUBLIC.

The special committee appointed by the Board of Health for the purpose of adopting such measures, as, in their judgment, may, by possibility, arrest the further extension of the prevailing epidemic reported, that they had requested those persons, who had the care of churches in the city, to cause the burial grounds attached to them to be covered thickly with lime, or charcoal, or both; that they requested the proprietors of manufactories, in which filth or impure air may be engendered, to order them to be thoroughly purified with ley, lime or pot-ash, and entreated their fellow citizens to cause ashes, ley, lime, pot-ash or charcoal to be freely used in their yards, privies and gutters. They further recommended, that after they closed their houses at night, they should slack in their cellars or kitchens a small quantity of lime, which it was believed would tend to purify the air within doors.

They reminded their fellow citizens, whose stores or cellars are situated near the margin of either river to anticipate, at this season, a heavy storm and a consequent rising of the tides, which might be attended with very pernicious effects, if means should not be previously used to avert the consequences.\*

After some other observations, they proceed thus. The fever has greatly exceeded its original limits. The

\* It would be well for those, who reside near the margin of our rivers, to recollect, that towards the end of September they may always expect a storm. They should, therefore endeavour to be prepared for it.

weather, from its extreme heat, is deemed, unpropitious. In the year 1798, the fever continued till the 10th of November. On the 1st of that month 11 persons died of that disease, 7 on the second and 7 on the fourth. Hitherto no other agent but frost has been known to destroy Yellow Fever. If no other agent can be found, we have no alternative, but in patiently submitting to all the inconveniences, that must of necessity afflict multitudes of families driven from their homes.

“The committee are not, however, without hope. Experience has shewn, that one of the most awful diseases, which ever threatened the life of man has yielded to a mild antidote. The small pox is now harmless. The reason why vaccination is a preventive, we are not permitted to know. We know the fact. This knowledge is the result of human labour and it ought to teach an enlightened and pious community, that they have no right to give themselves up to despair.

“The committee have adopted upon an extended plan some of the methods, which have been recommended to arrest the farther progress of the disease. Other means will be used. On their part, nothing shall be omitted. They rely with confidence on their fellow-citizens to second their efforts.

“The committee are fully sensible of the difficulties they have to encounter. The fever is widely diffused; the heat of the weather is great; the means they employ is uncertain. The faculty in the healing art is divided in their opinion. Your Committee, however, ask a prompt compliance with their recommendation and they trust, that, under the favour of Providence, they will be enabled to prevent the disease from reaching the yet healthy parts of our city.

RICHARD RIKER  
JAMES HALL  
ROBERT M'QUEEN.”

Such was the address of the Select Committee. They performed the duty assigned to them, with a zeal and intelligence, which did them the highest honour, and had the means, which they employed been resorted to in the latter end of July, I think it highly probable, that the

fever, which commenced in Rector-street, might have been speedily checked.

In confirmation of this opinion, I shall here insert an extract from a letter written by Dr. Samuel Ackerly to Mr. John Griscom professor of chemistry, which appeared in *the Statesman* on the 18th October, in consequence of a difference between these two gentlemen respecting the best mode of purifying the atmosphere." "Trinity Church yard" says the Doctor, "and several other grave yards, which emitted septic exhalations have been covered with lime and their putrid stench destroyed. The same has been done with the cispool in Rector and Banker Streets, and others in the upper part of the town have not only been covered with lime, but the yards and gutters have been cleansed and lime strewed in the alleys, sinks and other receptacles of foul emanations. The Yellow Fever has here been arrested and in a concentrated population of rising 2000.\* Nothing but the use of lime has been used in that quarter of the city, and in fact, the committee principally confined themselves to the use of lime."

The Dr. proceeds in his address to Mr. Griscom thus. "In your last communication you observe that the most certain mode of changing a poisonous state of the atmosphere would be to throw into such an atmosphere some substance, which spreading throughout the whole mass of air, would come in contact with the deleterious particles and by the effect of chemical attraction, neutralise their acrimony and destroy their virulence." "Now," says the Doctor, "lime is this very thing." I went into Broadway one night three or four weeks since as far down as Courtlandt-street to observe Dr. Roosas' operations.—One or two casks of lime were emptied in a heap and water poured on to slack it. When the lime had fallen

\* By a census, which was taken by me of the inhabitants between Henry street and the East-river and between Catharine and Pike-streets by direction of the Special Committee, which was delivered on the 13th October, there were 3000 found in that district and of these 9 were sick, of whom two only were afflicted with diseases, which could be supposed to be, in the least degree dangerous. Amongst 600 people between Barclay and Murray-streets, where lime had been freely used, I did not find an individual sick.

into a powder, and while hot, the labourers scattered it in the gutter and over the street and a *diffusible emotion* from the hot lime rose to the house tops, penetrated every crack and corner and spread through the surrounding atmosphere.

When I entered upon this publication, I had determined to give very little of my own opinion. I resolved to state facts and leave it with a judicious public to draw their own conclusion. Here, however, I may be allowed to state, that lime was, in the present instance, evidently of great utility. Facts are stubborn things. And let this city or any other city, which may hereafter, have the misfortune to be afflicted with Yellow Fever resort to this as an antidote, on the very first appearance of the disorder, and it is highly probable, that it would be speedily eradicated. At all events the expense will be so trivial, in comparison of the proposed benefit, that in such a case, it would be unpardonable to omit making the experiment.

The following was adopted on the 13th, and ordered to be published.

*The Board of Health to their Fellow Citizens.*

The Board have learnt with regret, that great excitement and alarm has been manifested by that portion of their fellow citizens, who have removed or reside in the upper parts of the city; arising, as they have been informed, from the opinion, that several persons who have removed from the infected district with the prevailing disorder upon them, and have located themselves in their neighbourhood, may be the means of spreading the infection in that part of the city.

The Board believe that the present alarm is unfounded, for as yet there is no instance, within the knowledge of the Board, among the numerous removals which have occurred, where any part of the family, or the attendants of the sick, have contracted the disorder out of the infected district; and it is therefore concluded, that the present disease, (so far at least,) is not infectious in a healthy atmosphere. The Board have nevertheless used every means compatible with propriety, for the removal of the sick to the places provided for that purpose out of



the city ; and consequently, all persons who could be brought to consent to the measure, all transient persons, and all those without families or friends, have been removed. The Board feel every disposition to do all acts that they may be called upon by duty or propriety to perform, which will tend to allay the apprehensions or mitigate the afflictions of their fellow-citizens ; but they cannot consent to exercise an authority, (without the most cogent necessity,) that shall tear from their friends or relatives a person suffering under disease, when there is no proof as yet developed, that there is danger to be apprehended by the neighbourhood, or even by the inmates of the houses in which the sickness prevails.

The Board have no manner of doubt, that on reflection, the candor and good sense of that portion of their fellow citizens who may differ from them on this subject, will induce such to acknowledge that a compulsory removal of those whose friends and relatives have provided for them an asylum in the healthy parts of our city, without their consent, would be a measure so repugnant to every feeling of humanity, under present circumstances, that it ought not to be resorted to.

By order of the Board.

STEPHEN ALLEN, Pres.

J. MORTON, Secr'y.

On the 15th and 16th, nothing peculiar occurred, except that the number of cases appeared to multiply and more difficult to be accounted for than they had been formerly. On the last of these days, there were eleven cases reported and four deaths.

On the 16th, the Common Council very humanely adopted the following resolutions.

*Resolved*, that in case any of the city watch, who may be employed by the corporation in the infected district shall be taken sick, upon application to the Board of Health, a physician shall be employed to attend such watchman at the expense of the Board.

*Resolved*, that the additional sum of one quarter dollar for each night shall be allowed to all the night watch in the first watch district, till the further order of the Board.



Some days previous to the adoption of these resolutions, a very interesting letter addressed to the President of the Board, was received from Dr. Pascallis, in which he suggests some rules and precautions to be observed by watchmen, in the infected district. As the letter is too long for insertion in this publication, I must content myself with a few extracts. After observing that the act of swallowing certain specific gases, from which he believes, that the danger of infection is meant, is very little or not at all to be dreaded during night from many hours after sunset, until a few hours after sunrise; because those vapours are like all other exhalations of the earth let down or precipitated by the cool air of the night and their disappearance is more particularly depended on at this season of the year. Hence it is, that none of the watchmen, who have been longer than a month employed in that district have suffered the disease in a single instance.

“It was owing” says he “to the subsidence of infecting exhalations, during the night and morning, that a most admirable preservation took place in 1804, of all the bakers, who during the raging pestilence of the city of Seville, in Spain, continued to supply the inhabitants with bread before sun-rise. They all resided in and came daily from a neighbouring village, distributed their bread to their customers without exception of house, or persons, from whom they received payment. They were careful to return home before sun-rise and the fact is no less true than remarkable, that not one of them ever died or sickened with the Yellow Fever. Yet,” says he “the mortality of Seville, containing about 90,000 inhabitants, was immense.

“Other rules and precautions may much diminish the danger of infection, during the day time, provided those, who are exposed to it, are always in motion and walking on the highest part of the pavement, avoiding to sit down for rest on the lowest. They may also stand more safely on high stoops, and if they assemble in any house for business or rest, let them select the uppermost and most airy rooms, where they need never apprehend any danger. A good reason for all these precautions is the well ascertained fact of pestiferous gases and vapours, viz. their

heaviness of gravity, owing to which they rarely reach the head of an ordinary sized man ”

After a number of very pertinent observations, on the nature of pestilential gases, the Dr. says, “that Watchmen and day guards may rest confident, that no real danger exists beyond the limits of the infected district, in the worst parts of which they have no business to stand, and in other parts they may be protected by standing to windward of them.” He further recommends to watchmen and others employed in the infected district, to benefit themselves by letting out water from the wells as often as they possibly can.

“Running water,” he observes, “is, at any time, a powerful purifier of air, as much as stagnant water must soon contaminate it with the substances it alters and decomposes in a sultry summer’s day, and oppressive atmosphere. Every body can judge and feel how grateful it is to walk on a clean pavement, well watered, the evaporation of which imparts freshness and elasticity to respiration. Such,” he said, “were the remarks and precautions, which he wished to offer to those, who in case of emergency might hesitate to repair to the infected district on account of personal danger. He hoped, also, that the same observations, would be useful for all good watchmen, who deserved to be well rewarded, and at the same time instructed that they were not devoted to absolute danger. As the facts and principles, which he had endeavoured to explain were correct, he concluded by expecting, that every man would do his duty with more confidence, with fidelity to public authority and honour to himself.”

On the 20th September, the President presented the following address to the citizens, which was adopted.

Several cases of Yellow Fever having recently occurred in Lombardy and Cheapside Streets, it has been deemed necessary by the Board to recommend a removal of the inhabitants of that vicinity, and it is, therefore, earnestly recommended to all persons residing in the vicinity of No. 4 Lombardy-street, or No. 12 or 16 Cheapside-street, to remove therefrom preparatory to such other measures as the Board may deem it necessary to

adopt, to interdict the intercourse with that district of the city. Should any of the families residing in the neighbourhood of the infection be so circumstanced as to be unable to provide a place of refuge for themselves, every facility within the power of the Board will be given them, of which they may be informed by application to the committee at the old Alms-house."

September 24th. A report of the Special Committee was read, of which the following is an abstract. It was laid on the table for further consideration by the Board for the purpose of adopting such measures, as in their judgment, may arrest the further extension of the prevailing epidemic.

In their report, they state, they are led to believe, that some of the means, which have been employed to check the advance of Yellow Fever have been attended with beneficial results. The epidemic was known to be in Fulton-street on the 11th instant, as on that day, Mary Dugan was reported to have sickened of that disease on the east side of Broadway, and other circumstances concurred to shew, that it must then have been there.

The materials used by the committee, were applied in parts of Beekman, Fulton, Barclay, Dey and Courtlandt Streets and Broadway, Maiden-lane and down Rector-street to the river. The chief agents employed to arrest the disease were unslacked lime, charcoal and tanner's bark. Auxiliary measures were also resorted to, which would be particularly explained in a future report.

The committee are of opinion, that the experiment should be pursued with unabated vigour. And they would earnestly urge, that a full and fair trial be made of some of the acid fumigations, which have been proposed by experienced and scientific men. Some of these, they thought might be of benefit. They had been used with success and strongly recommended by gentlemen entitled to confidence.

It was now certain, they observed, that the fever had broken out in Lombardy, Cheapside and Bancker Streets. This calamity affords an opportunity to test the efficacy of the means used. The thickness of the population, the narrowness of the streets and the filth which is there col-

lected, leaves us no hopes, if the epidemic be left to take its course, that any thing but frost will stop it. The committee were anxious to assail this infected spot. They also wished to make experiments upon many cellars and houses in different parts of the city, which are known to be filled with the poisonous infection. They believed, that such trials would be satisfactory to their fellow citizens, and might eventually lead to a discovery, which will enable us to arrest an evil, which more than any other threatens the future greatness and prosperity of the city.

The committee, therefore, recommended, that for a purpose so important, a further appropriation of——— dollars.

R. RIKER,  
ROBERT M'QUEEN.

On the 25th September, eight cases were reported of Yellow Fever, two of whom, viz. Robert Williams from No. 33 Market-street, and Frederick Boyce from No. 11 Dutch-street had been sent to the Marine Hospital. A gentleman was reported sick of the fever at No. 6 Lewis-street, who had removed from No. 363 Pearl-street on the 12th, and had not been below Beekman-street within 20 days. Eliza, the wife of Robert Bayley, who sickened on the 23d instant at No. 12 Cheapside-street, and Eliza the sister of the said Robert, who had sickened on the day following, were amongst those reported. They had nursed Catharine Bayley, who had died in that house on the 21st, and had been both removed to No. 28 Orchard-street.

On the same day, a letter was received from the Health Officer stating, that Ann Dixon who had been received at the Hospital from Fort Richmond on the 24th, had died last night of Yellow Fever. Her husband, who had been received from the same place, died on the 27th.

26th September, of nine cases reported, there were two somewhat remarkable, the one of Andrew Winslow, a coloured man near the African Church in Brooklyn, who sickened on the 24th, and had been in the habit of passing from the village of Greenwich to No. 79 Pearl-

street; the other was that of Samuel M. Isaacs, who had been sent to the Marine Hospital by the magistrates of Brooklyn. Two cases were referred to the Resident Physician.

Five cases of Yellow Fever had now appeared in Brooklyn, four of which were traced to New-York. The general health of the village, however, was not, in the least affected by that circumstance.

The following statement of the case of Mr. Isaacs was received from the Health Officer.

QUARANTINE GROUND,

*Staten-Island, September 25th, 1822.*

“Dear Sir,

The magistrates of the town of Brooklyn sent last night from that place to the Marine Hospital, Samuel M. Isaacs, who is ill of Yellow Fever. As you have taken every opportunity to examine into the alleged causes of Yellow Fever, and as it is of the utmost importance, that every circumstance, which can, in the smallest degree, afford any information on the interesting subject of Yellow Fever, should be implicitly investigated, I take the liberty of sending you the statement obtained from the said Mr. Isaacs, which I conceive to be worth examining into.

His memory is somewhat impaired by his disease, which may cause some inaccuracy in the dates; but the facts are probably correctly stated.

He is a journeyman blacksmith, and lived with Mr. John Davis the foreman of Mr. Quick's shop, (coach-maker in Broad-street,) at No. 42 Washington-street, and he removed with Dean's family to Brooklyn about the 12th of August, to No. 7 Poplar-street, in that town; but he continued to work daily at Mr. Quick's, until the shop was closed about four weeks ago.

He went with Davis in a boat to his house in Washington-street, about the 3d instant, and again to New-York in Beaver-street, on the 6th instant, and remained there about a quarter of an hour; this was the last time he was in the city.

Davis sickened on the 9th or 10th, and died on the 13th. Nicholas Baisley, aged about 22 years, and his

sister Antoinette, aged about 11 years, inhabitants of Brooklyn, who occupied with their family the same house as Davis, died of Yellow Fever the 22d instant.

The young man had been often in the city; but Mr. Isaacs could not say to what part of it he had gone. He was inclined to believe, that the sister had not been there. The inhabitants were removed from the house yesterday, by order of the magistrates.

If this account be correct, is it not probable, that Davis has introduced the disease into that dwelling. If the sister of Baisley has not been to the city, and her disease was Yellow Fever, in what manner did she contract it?

I do not think it improbable, that Mr. Isaacs has taken his disease from Davis, although there are instances of 13 days having elapsed after exposure to the infected air of Yellow Fever; yet they are very rare, as you have noticed, this season.

The most frequent period has been from four to seven days after their removal from the infected district. Mr. Isaacs has assisted Davis' wife in attending him, and he was the only person who laid him out, and in six days after he sickened (on the 19th instant).

Although Baisley's family did not visit Davis, when he was sick, yet they were exposed to his bedding, which was put into the yard immediately after his death, and kept there some days. With great respect, &c.

JOSEPH BAYLEY,

HON. STEPHEN ALLEN.

On the 28th September, four cases were reported of Yellow Fever, two of whom had been sent to the Quarantine Ground, one from the infected district, the other from 60 Broad-street. On the 29th no cases were reported; but two deaths. On the 30th there were six cases, one of which was stated to be convalescent, the other to be dead. Besides this last, there were four other deaths reported.

On the 30th September, the following was presented to the Common Council and ordered to be published.

"To the Honourable the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New-York.



“ The memorial of the undersigned clergymen of different denominations of this city, respectfully suggests to your honourable body, that acknowledging as we do the being and Providence of the “ only Lord God our Lord Jesus Christ,” and confessing as we must, a common criminality and demerit in his sight, and visited as we are with one of those desolating scourges, which himself expressly challenges in his word, not only as a judgment, of which he is the righteous disposer ; but as one of his “ sore judgments,” upon a community of transgressors, and knowing as we may, that his own invisible agency appoints and controls, in sovereign wisdom, all the series of secondary causes, however, complex and inscrutable to man, it becomes us, every way in our collective character as a city, and after the example of ancient Nineveh to “ humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt us in due time.”

“ The reasons and propriety of such a general humiliation before God are sufficiently obvious, we fondly hope, to your honourable body.

“ Having thus suggested to your Honourable Body a measure which we confide in your wisdom to approve, because it seemed, all things considered, to be expedient and incumbent ; a measure, which seems to be demanded, not more by our present circumstances and the aspect of Divine Providence, than by the common consent of the wise and the good and praying, that “ the wisdom that is from above,” may enlighten all your deliberations and bless your administration, we subscribe ourselves, honourable Sirs, your friends and fellow citizens.

*J. B. Romeyn*

*E. Washburn*

*N. Bangs*

*Alexander M'Leod*

*H. Peneveyre*

*S. N. Rowan*

*Samuel Nott, Jun.*

*Nich. S. Marselus*

*R. M'Cartee*

*James G. Ogilvie*

*S. Martindale*

*William Gray*

*Isaac Chase*

*Samuel H. Cox*

*Ward Stafford*

*Peter Ludlow, Jun.*

The Recorder then moved the following resolution.

The Common Council conceiving it to be the duty of a community in a season of peculiar affliction to unite in

their social capacity in supplicating the favour of the Almighty to avert his judgment, and viewing the present visitation of sickness in our city as one of those events, which calls for the attention of the inhabitants, in imploring the Supreme Ruler of the Universe to stay the disease now prevailing amongst us.

Therefore resolved, that the Common Council earnestly recommend to the inhabitants of this city, to set apart and observe, *Friday the 11th October*, as a day of public humiliation and prayer to Almighty God, that he would be pleased to interfere in our behalf, and arrest the progress of the malady, and, in his infinite mercy, to restore health to the city. And it is hereby recommended to all the citizens, to abstain from servile labour and unnecessary recreations on the above day; and to devote the same to religious worship for the purposes aforesaid.

The question being taken on adopting the resolution, it was unanimously carried, and referred to his Honor the Mayor to fix upon some day for the observance of the religious duties proposed. The Mayor, upon conversing with the Reverend the Clergy, fixed upon Friday the 11th instant, the day, which had been proposed by his Honor the Recorder.

The day appointed for the performance of this solemn duty having arrived, the places of worship, in the lower parts of the town, were not, as might reasonably have been expected, opened; but those in the upper parts and out skirts of the city were well filled by very respectable people, who were, no doubt, highly gratified in hearing the pious, pathetic and truly appropriate discourses which were then delivered from the sacred desks. It is earnestly to be hoped, that the solemn truths then communicated, may have made a deep impression on the minds of the auditors and be productive of good fruits in their future lives and conversation.

On the 1st of October, there were no cases and two deaths.

On the 2d October, six new cases were reported, of whom were John Hull a day and night watchman, and his wife, at No. 50 Pearl-street, and two persons, who had been moved to the Quarantine Ground. John Led-

dy was reported to have died yesterday of Yellow Fever, at No. 28 Lombardy-street, without having had medical advice. His wife was taken sick soon after his death.

The following was read and ordered to be published.

*New-York, October 22d, 1822.*

THE BOARD OF HEALTH TO THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS.

The report of Yellow Fever cases for several days having greatly diminished in number, it is to be feared, that some of those, who have removed from the infected part of the city may be induced to return, without duly reflecting on the consequences, that may result to themselves and families. Years of experience confirm the fact, that heretofore, nothing has effectually eradicated the Yellow Fever, after it has once commenced its ravages, except the appearance of black frost; and that those, who have been so thoughtless and imprudent as to return to the city before the occurrence alluded to, have dearly paid for their temerity by the sickness, and not unfrequently the death of some part of their families. To prevent this catastrophe, the Board of Health earnestly entreat their fellow citizens, who have retired from that part of the city known to have been infected, not to return to their dwelling houses or stores, until officially notified, that the danger has entirely ceased, &c." This address contains several other powerful arguments to induce the citizens to a cheerful compliance with the recommendation of the Board.

On the 4th October, two cases and one death were reported. The two cases were those of Laura Lawler and Edward Kearney, who both sickened at No. 50 Pearl-street, on the evening of the 2d instant.

The Recorder moved, that the sum of \$500 be granted to the committee for the purchase of lime to be made use of for purifying the atmosphere in the infected district. The motion was lost. The sum of \$400 was then proposed and agreed to.

5th October. Three cases and three deaths were reported. One of these was announced as a case and death nearly at the same time, viz. Mary, the wife of Charles A. Page, at No. 12 Ferry-street near Gold-street. She

had been no nearer the infected district than the place of her residence.

On the 6th there was only one case reported, viz. that of Letty Fairley at No. 28 Lombardy-street. The four following cases were referred to the Resident Physician, viz. John and James Voorhees, corner of John and Nassau Streets; William Roberts, Junior, in Maiden-lane, and a lady in the same house.

The following letter from Dr. Osborne to the Resident Physician was read and ordered to be published.

My Dear Sir,

I am induced to address you, in consequence of a paragraph, which appeared in the American of last evening, and which I think calculated to give the Board of Health unjust impressions, respecting my professional conduct. I have never wished to be very forward in disseminating alarm, and have ever been ready to report cases, as soon as they should be characterised by those symptoms, which are cognizable by the Board of Health. Of five cases of fever, that have occurred, at Mr. Roberts', three have perfectly recovered, two are still seriously sick; but have not those aggravated symptoms, that will justify an unqualified declaration of malignancy. At Voorhees', corner of John and Nassau Streets, Mrs. Voorhees and daughter have recovered, after a few days illness—two lads are there sick, the second day of their disease. All those patients, as there may be some misrepresentation made to the Board, it is my earnest desire, that you would visit with me or with any mutual medical friend. The two remaining sick at Mr. Roberts' are his son, the 8th day of his disease, and the nurse Mrs. H. the second day. I am,

Sir, respectfully, &c.

SAMUEL OSBORN.

DR. QUACKENBOSS."

6th October, 1822.

On the 7th October, the following was presented to the Board, addressed to the president

"Sir,

"Pursuant to the request of the Board, I yesterday

visited John and James Voorhees, at the corner of Nassau and John-streets, and found them sick of Yellow Fever. Mrs. Voorhees and her daughter are now convalescent. I also visited, William Roberts, jun. and Mrs. Hutchins, at No. 39 Maiden-lane. They are both labouring under Yellow Fever. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts and their daughter Mary-Ann, have been sick with fever; but convalescent. Dr. Osborn, the attending physician, declares it to have been Remittent Fever. Mr. Cohen, at No. 51 Maiden-lane informed me, that there was not, at present, nor had any person been sick in his house, except his wife, who had a slight catarrh about three weeks since.

On the 8th, Mr. Lyon was reported sick of Yellow Fever, at No. 11 Ann-street. This was far beyond what had been deemed the infected district. Two deaths were reported and it was stated, that several other deaths by fever had taken place, which could not be well traced to the original source of pestilence.

On the 9th, five cases were reported, two of whom ought to be mentioned, viz. Doctor Stræbel, at No. 41 Nassau-street, who sickened immediately on his return from the country, and a person at No. 205 William-street, whose name was suppressed by request. He too had, likewise, just returned from the country. From these two examples, the public ought to have been warned, how extremely dangerous it was to return hastily from the pure air of the country, to the infected air of the city.

On the 10th, five cases were reported, two of whom had been sent to the Marine Hospital, and one a gentleman at Bloomingdale, who had not been down lower than Franklin-square, in Pearl-street, near the corner of Cherry-street.

On the 11th October, there were two cases, and four deaths. It was ascertained, that Mr. Joel Hodges, who on the day preceeding, had been reported, knew nothing of his having been sick of Yellow Fever, until he saw his name in the News-papers, while he was taking a stroll in the afternoon.

On the 12th October, one case only, and two deaths, were reported. One of the deaths was that of John Irving, No. 19 Cross-street, who had been sick but four days.

He had been employed, in scattering lime in the infected district.

Alderman Taylor, in consequence of a suspicion that some of the cases reported are not Yellow Fever, moved, that hereafter the physicians be instructed to make their reports to the Resident physician, which motion was adopted.

October 13th, two cases only were reported. One of them was that of Mr. Patrick Phelan, at the corner of Front and Depeyster Streets. Although this gentleman had removed to the country, he was in the habit of coming into the city, every Sunday, and spending the interval between the hours of morning and evening service, in the house, where he was then confined. He died on the 2d day thereafter.

October 14th. There was reported one case and one death, and on the day following four cases, concerning whom there was nothing extraordinary unless that Thomas Pierson and Dennis M'Honey had both sickened at No. 105 William-street, the latter of whom had died without medical aid.

On the 16th, two cases and three deaths were reported. On the day following, there were nine cases and five deaths. Of the cases, Lorens Wenderkin sick at No. 267 Mott-street, had been employed, the last sixteen days, at the Sugar-House in Liberty-street, and Isabella Blakeley, at the corner of Vesey and Washington Streets. No information could be obtained, which could be relied on with respect to this lady, whether she had been in the infected district or not.

On the 18th, six new cases were reported and one death. On the 19th, ten cases and seven deaths, concerning one of whom it is proper to transcribe the following.

The Resident Physician reported that Israel Eldrith died at one o'clock yesterday morning of Yellow Fever, attended with the black vomit, near the five mile stone on the Bloomingdale road. He had been a considerable time, at the house, where he died; but on Tuesday the 8th instant came to the city, and returned home late in the evening, stating to his family, that he had foolishly



exposed himself in the infected district, and examined Rector-street, and others also infected. He sickened on the following Saturday the 12th instant. The fate of this man (continues the Resident Physician) ought to prove a sufficient warning to our absent citizens against returning to their houses, before they are officially invited by the Board of Health."

The Board was so sensible of the propriety of this report, that it was unanimously resolved, that it should be forthwith published in the Evening papers.

The following appeared in the Commercial Advertiser on the 23d October, which it may be well to preserve, as it contains many valuable hints, which may be useful at a future period, in case we should be visited with a calamity similar to that, with which we have been lately afflicted.

*Advice to the inhabitants of New-York, on their return to their dwellings, and premises.*

1st. The houses should be effectually aired throughout, by opening the windows and cellars for a day; and this always can be done without danger at an early hour in the morning, and, if possible before sunrise. This measure, appears the more important, as dwellings *in the infected district*, must have more or less contaminated air of the same quality as that, which has proved infectious and has created a mortal disease; but besides this general cause, others more particular may, in every instance have vitiated the internal air. Every body knows, that clothes in presses, bed-rooms, closets, &c. are liable to become very offensive, if air is not frequently admitted to purify them. Another cause is the death and subsequent putrefaction of much vermin; dogs, cats, rats, birds, &c. which have been left to starve, have also generated insects and abundant materials for infection. In fine various articles of provisions, all perishable and corruptible substances left in shops, pantries, cellars, and kitchens, which must unquestionably have contributed to fill up houses with very deleterious vapours.

2d. A diligent search must, therefore, be made for any article of the kind, the destruction of which by fire would be the most eligible; or else they should be

covered with ashes or lime till they can be conveniently removed.

3d. A third means for the purification of dwellings, is that of kindling fires in the lower rooms and kitchens, washing and scrubbing the floors with soap, burning vinegar on hot iron plates and shovels, and finally white-washing those cellars or places, where something putrid or some dead animals have been found.

4th. Those inhabitants who have removed into the country and remained there long, must be reminded that they are more liable to be affected and to sicken by the change of pure air, against the atmosphere of a city, which, in the autumnal season, is, during the best time, always vitiated. Their ruddy and hale appearance, when they return, shews, that they have been under an external excitement, which is to be soon counteracted, by a more debilitating atmosphere, or by a natural reaction; they frequently must experience some fever or ephemeral disease, which, in some instances, have proved serious. To these, I would, therefore, suggest as a precaution, 1st. To come as late as possible, that they may be protected by a bracing cold weather. 2d, To exercise much, during the first days, and to make use of those *stimulants* in diet or in the way of medicine, which can temporarily replace the *excitement* which they have lost.

I would take the liberty of representing to the Board of Health, that as soon as the present warm temperature shall have subsided, and without waiting for a *black frost*, it would be expedient to invite the citizens to have their houses ventilated and their premises cleansed, and as soon as the body requires warm bathing to have occasional fires kindled in their dwellings and to re-enter without any apprehension of a return of the epidemic.\*

The following are my motives. A large thickly built

\* We disagree with the worthy Doctor as to re-entering before we have a good biting black frost, although it is, by all means, proper, that when the temperature of the atmosphere shall become low, all the deserted houses should be ventilated and thoroughly cleansed, together with the cellars, yards, back houses, &c.

city, is like a vast and dreary collection of nuisances, an inexhaustible source of impure air; such as sinks, privies, yards, alleys and various perishable materials in heaps or scattered in lots, which successively receiving night dews and sunshine, contribute to the formation of a vitiated atmosphere. This penetrates into all cellars and confined places, from whence it may be afterwards extricated at a few degrees above freezing point, and still perpetuate during winter various sorts of typhoid, and mortal diseases. Similar occurrences have been frequently remarked in popular cities of Europe, the houses of which have been deserted, or neglected, during the distressing times of war, pestilence or famine.

At present, any one, who might visit, as I have frequently done, our narrow and low streets, especially along the East side of the town, will be convinced of the presence of a deadly air or offensive smell of the cloacinae kind. This is a serious evil, originating not from one but from a thousand sources of infection, and small or considerable nuisances. It is, therefore, conceived, that a simultaneous, and timely attention to ventilation of houses and cleansing of premises by the citizens, or by other persons under the authority of the Board of Health, might in a great measure, effect a perfect system of purification and correct or remove the causes of future additional calamities. It must, indeed, appear obvious, that the sooner domestic fires shall be kindled in every one of six or seven thousand houses, which are deserted, the sooner impure and sickly vapours will be destroyed and converted into a healthy atmosphere.

It was with a view of such a desirable and happy change, that the Board of Health of a sister city did invite, in the years 1798 and 1799, their fellow citizens, who had deserted their habitations, during the prevalence of Yellow Fever, to send and trust the keys of their houses and stores, to officers and proper persons, whom they had appointed, who could each of them take charge of a certain number of dwellings to see them ventilated, purified, &c. previous to the return of their respective occupants.

The delay of these important measures, until *black frost* takes place, appears to me to be an aggravating

circumstance of the evils, which I have represented and of the occasional increase of the mortality, especially if the winter should set in as late as it did in the year 1819. The black frost, besides, does not prevent the renewal, or recruiting of the distemper, in those places, where it has not penetrated. Hence, experienced physicians have witnessed very bad cases of Yellow Fever in November, or long after the ground had been covered with snow. A gradual lowering of the temperature from  $65^{\circ}$  to  $45^{\circ}$  is a more certain and universal cause of extinction of it, as an epidemic, or of the causes, from which it originates. There is never any black frost, in the Southern cities of Spain, such as Cadiz, Seville, Malaga, &c. and their freezing temperature, if any they experience, is very late; yet the Yellow Fever totally disappears by the middle or end of October, when their chilly rains begin to set in. Nor do the inhabitants of our sister cities of New-Orleans, Charleston and Savannah, although comparatively more exposed to a freezing temperature, depend upon its uncertain periods for the return of health, as much as they look for the sufficiently cold weather of the season.

FELIX PASCALIS.

On the 20th there had been four cases and five deaths; on the 21st one death; on the 22d two cases and one death; on the 23d two cases and one death; and on the 24th two cases and four deaths. On the 26th October no case nor death was reported.

An address, of which the following is an abstract\* was adopted by the Board of Health and ordered to be published.

The favourable state of the weather, the advanced season of the year and the reduced number of cases reported for several days past, together with the consolatory information from the proper sources relative to the general health of the city have induced the Board, to believe the calamity, with which we have been afflicted has, in a great measure, ceased, and therefore, under *certain limitations*, invite their fellow citizens to return to their homes.

\* I wished to have published the whole of this valuable document, but my limits do not admit of it.

The Board are, however, of opinion, that it would be highly improper immediately to re-occupy the houses and stores, in that part of the city, which has been the seat of infection or of any of the houses, in which sickness or death, by Yellow Fever has occurred. In order, however, that measures may be adopted to ventilate and purify the buildings, &c. and that no obstruction may be in the way of those, who shall be employed for that purpose, in that part of the city enclosed by fences, the Board have ordered them to be removed. But it is hoped, that this measure will not be viewed as an invitation to the inhabitants of that district to return, until some farther time shall have elapsed. How long it will be necessary further to desist must altogether depend on the weather; and the only indubitable proof as yet afforded us, that the cause of the disorder is completely eradicated is, such a temperature of the weather as will bring black frost, or ice in all parts of the city. The Board have every reason to believe, however, that no danger can exist in those parts of the city, not tainted by infection, even if there should have been some cases of sickness in the neighbourhood; which can be traced to one or other of the infected districts. They beg leave to recommend, as indispensable, that all the houses be ventilated previous to their being occupied, and as a general measure of precaution to be observed by all, who return to the city, the following rules are submitted.

1. That previous to any of the houses being occupied, the doors and windows be left open for one or two days.

2. That all the apartments be cleansed and white-washed.

3. That all filth be removed from the premises, and if any of the cellars contain stagnant water, that it be immediately removed.

4. That quick lime be strewed in the cellars, yards and privies.

5. That fires be lighted in each apartment.

6. In those house, where sickness or death has occurred by fever, the Board recommend, in addition to the preceding measures, that acid fumigations be used. The materials for this purpose, with the directions for using

them, were to be furnished on application to either of the Assistants. To those unable to bear the expenses of the necessary materials for cleansing and purifying, the same would be furnished gratis. It was farther added, that Professor Griscom had kindly offered to instruct any one who wished it, how to use the materials for fumigation in the most effectual manner.

The Assistants of the Board and those in the City Inspector's Department were instructed to see, that the houses and premises within the infected districts be ventilated, cleansed and purified, and it was hoped, that the direction of those persons would be promptly complied with on the part of the citizens.

Finally the Board deemed it unnecessary to continue their daily reports; but that if any deaths should occur by Yellow Fever, they would be announced in the weekly reports of the City Inspector.

#### OF THE CAUSES OF YELLOW FEVER.

This dreadful calamity has been attributed to various causes, amongst which some eminent physicians, as well as other very intelligent citizens have supposed, that it might be occasioned by our

#### PUBLIC CEMETERIES.

On this subject, Doctor Pascalis, a learned and respectable physician, expresses himself thus. The dangers to be apprehended to the health of the living from these receptacles of the dead have always undergone different estimates. Some have considered them as harmless, though in the centre of populous communities, because many generations had passed away from the time they were first employed, without their having apparently caused any evil effects. But others again and with reason, have supposed that such repositories might be far from being prejudicial at first; and yet must eventually become so, when the accumulation of putrescent exuviae, attaining a considerable extent, should be acted upon by such concurring circumstances as must excite deleterious exhalations.



tions. Awful visitations of mortality, which in the last half century have awakened the minds of at least one people on this point, and have given rise throughout France to a rigorous law, at the same time prohibiting the inhumation of bodies within the limits of cities, and fixing cemeteries to open and uninhabited situations. Neither is the pride or devotion of families allowed to crowd the churches, no vaults being permitted in them unless eight feet square, and the structure of their coffins in England, where among the wealthy, they generally use their churches for burial, seems well adapted to prevent the evils otherwise arising from their imprudent fashion of entombing corpses in the interior of churches. Coffins of lead, soldered, lined, and cased in mahogany or walnut, and again in oak, and over all covered with cloth or velvet, may be a sufficient security against pestiferous vapours.

“But, amongst us,” says the Doctor, “let it be remembered, that the dangers of cemeteries filled with strata of putrefaction, are increased in an alarming degree, by our manner of interring the dead. We place them in coffins of slender materials, under a few feet of loose earth, on every square foot of which the atmosphere continually exerts a pressure of 2,300 lbs. The doctor, after some observations respecting the nature of gases, in which I have no doubt of his being correct; but which as many of my readers would not understand, I omit, proceeds thus,

From analogy, we may conclude, that burying grounds in populous cities cannot always remain innocuous. Particularly aggravating circumstances call our attention to the cemetery of Trinity Church, now suspected as the cause of the mortality in its vicinity. The first is that the area of about three acres, although on a level with Broadway, yet at its Western extremity is elevated ten feet and upwards above the ground plan of Lumber-street, while Greenwich-street is again ten feet below Lumber-street, and Washington-street, perhaps, five feet below Greenwich. It results, therefore, that this body of earth, the surface of which has no declivity to carry off the rains, and which is held in and encompassed by a massy wall

is like a great reservoir of contaminating fluids suspended above the adjacent streets. As a proof of this we may state, that in a house in Thames-street, springs of water pouring in from that ground, occasioned the removal of the tenants by their exceeding fœtidness and impurity.

The second circumstance is the number of bodies interred; more than a century ago, this ground, by royal charter, having been assigned as a public burial place to the inhabitants of New-York. If we only advert to the deaths in our city, during the two last years, in 1820, 3815; and in 1821, 3810, we may easily calculate, what a considerable proportion of these must have been deposited there, since the Episcopalians are very numerous, and that cemetery is the privileged receptacle of strangers, or those, who do not belong to any particular religion. We know also, that to satisfy the demand for room, a charnel house has been found necessary, to clear off the remains disinterred for new occupants.

A third circumstance is the continual digging of graves, thus opening to their very sources vents to the gases, that must be produced in an enclosure, where no space for a new grave can be fixed upon, until an iron sound is forced through the earth to discover an old coffin decayed enough, to allow the removal of its contents to the charnel house. This opening of the graves, as might be expected, creates an intolerable stench, often complained of and at present, testified to before the Board of Health by those living in the neighbourhood.

Let us hope, that the situation of this cemetery, at present, exciting our fears will be speedily redressed, by the example of a sister city, who some years ago, converted a like cemetery into a healthy and ornamental square.

Towards the end of September, it was observed, that several cases of Yellow Fever had been traced to the sugar house in Liberty-street, and no small attention was excited thereby. Establishments of this kind, it is generally supposed, contribute to contaminate the atmosphere and assist in the spread of noxious and deadly effluvia. Part of the materials used in the refinement of sugar, it is well known, are obtained at the slaughter house.

ses and often before used, particularly in hot weather, are in a state the most disgusting and offensive. And it is no less certain, that the blood made use of, at a sugar house, is often in a state of absolute putrefaction and so abounded with worms as to be visible to the naked eye. It need not, then to be wondered at, that, in an establishment of this nature, situated on the margin of the infected district, the air should be contaminated and endanger human existence.

Thus far, the advocates for local origin. Our last pestilence, according to them, was occasioned by the offensive smell proceeding from the burying ground of Trinity Church, from foul privies, dirty streets, the filthy mode of manufacturing sugar, &c. &c. In what they say, there is much plausibility, and I shall not attempt to contradict them; but it is necessary, that I should state what is said on the other side of the question, viz. the importation of the disease.

It is asserted by the advocates for importation that a vessel had arrived in our harbour, about the end of June from Florida, which vessel, upon the surrender of that territory to the United States, had carried one hundred Spanish soldiers to Havana, where the crew were infected with the Yellow Fever, and that several of them had died; that upon their arrival at Pensacola, they had communicated the disease to the inhabitants of that city, where it had been productive of the most dreadful carnage, a carnage, which according to the accounts, which we have received, has been unexampled in the history of this dreadful disease, as it was scarcely possible to find a sufficient number of healthy persons to nurse the sick and inter the dead, that the said vessel afterwards came to this port and laid at the wharf between Reector and Carlisle Streets, directly opposite to the house of William S. Castle, block and pump maker, No. 106 Washington-street, where three of his family got sick of a very serious and alarming fever, from which, however, they recovered. This was called Bilious Remittent Fever. They had sickened about the beginning of July. Mr. Reeder's family and that of Mrs. Rose were soon after afflicted, and from them the disease

began to spread. Others believed, that it was imported by a vessel from Matanza. *The pestilence walketh in darkness*, and though volumes have been written upon the subject of its origin, we now know just as much about it as we did thirty years ago, when the question first began to be agitated. When an enemy gets into a garrison, the general may very probably hold a consultation with his officers. On what? Will it be on this question, how did the enemy get in? No, but, what will be the most easy means in our power to drive him out. I am sorry to say, that our physicians have not in general, acted in this manner. They have written letter after letter and pamphlet after pamphlet, expressing their opinions respecting the origin of fever. Would they not have been much better employed in devoting their time and talents, in a friendly manner, to devise the best mode of its prevention and cure? By the plan, which they have heretofore pursued, much acrimony has been excited, and no good has been done. With respect to the talents of our medical gentlemen, their honesty and integrity, I entertain the highest opinion; but a man, who is not possessed of half the intelligence of any of them, may possibly be able to point out to them the propriety of paying some attention to the following subject, with respect to which, I now with great deference to them and to the public, submit a few hints.

*On the best mode of preventing the reappearance of  
Yellow Fever.*

Concerning this, as well as the origin and character of this formidable opinion, there is a considerable diversity of opinion, but upon some of the most important points, connected with the subject, men of reflection do not differ so widely as is generally imagined. It is agreed on all hands, that the disease is either imported or that it originates from local causes. Both may be right. It then appears to me, that by the adoption of a more rigid police than we have heretofore been accustomed to in this city, we might be able, by the blessing of God, to arrive at an effectual mode of guarding against

its introduction, from either of these sources. But in order, that we may attain this truly desirable object, I deem it an object of primary importance, that those, who may be empowered to make laws for the preservation of the public health, should act in such a manner, as if they believed, that it might proceed from either, or from both of the two causes combined. Herein, in my opinion, rests our safety.

It has fallen to my lot to see as much of the Yellow Fever, as, any other individual in the United States, as I was constantly employed by the Board of Health in one capacity or another, from the year 1798, till the year 1814, when I resigned. It will now be the third time, that I have published a book respecting this disease, and as a matter of course, I have endeavoured, as well as I could, to investigate the cause of its origin. After much reflection upon the subject, I have, at last, come to this conclusion, that it may be, and has been imported, and that it also may be, and has originated from local causes. In some of those years, in which we have been afflicted with pestilence, I have found no difficulty in tracing it to some vessel or vessels, which had arrived here from a foreign port; and in others after the most strict inquiry, I could not possibly devise any cause for it, except that it was owing to the filth and dirt of various kinds, which had been allowed to accumulate in our cellars, yards, privies, &c.

The opinion, which I have adopted, will not, as I am persuaded, meet with the approbation of some of our most respectable physicians, but much as I wish that my sentiments should accord with those of the wise and the good, I must be allowed to judge for myself. In the opinion, which I now hold, I may be wrong; but my error, if I really be in error, cannot possibly be injurious to society. It is surely good policy, that when there is a probability of great danger, we cannot be too active in adopting means to avert it. If we suppose, that the calamity, with which we have been lately afflicted, was brought to us from abroad, let our quarantine laws be made much more strict than they are, at present. I do not know what additions ought to be made to the existing law; but surely the subject is of the first importance and re-

quires an early attention from those, to whom the preservation of the public health is entrusted. Let them only devise the best means for effecting this salutary purpose ; and the legislature will, undoubtedly, grant them the necessary powers. That amendments are wanting is obvious, as our worthy Health Officer has, in some of his late communications to the board, requested an explanation of what they deemed to be the extent of his power in certain cases. Difficulties of this kind ought to be guarded against. It is obvious, however, that after enacting a law upon a subject so intricate as this, it will require many amendments, the necessity of which time alone can discover, before it can be brought to answer effectually the purpose, for which it was intended. But let those, to whom this important business is entrusted persevere, and, in time they will most probably, accomplish their object. It may be said that the restrictions on our vessels at quarantine are already sufficiently great ; but let me ask, whether, if by human wisdom, so dreadful a calamity as that, with which our city has been repeatedly afflicted can be averted, it would not be adviseable to make them still greater ? Owing to the speedy flight of our inhabitants, we have, this season, comparatively speaking lost few lives ; but our trade and commerce has sustained a shock from which they will not speedily recover, and if the return of so great a calamity can be averted by subjecting vessels at quarantine to greater restrictions than those, to which they are now liable, our merchants will in general, cheerfully submit to the sacrifice.

I have proceeded thus far, upon the supposition that the Yellow Fever was imported. Let us now take the opposite side of the question and believe that it proceeds from local origin. And here I should suppose, that it would be more easy to devise an effectual preventive than in the other case. Physicians, who have espoused opinions diametrically opposite to each other respecting the causes of pestilence in our city, are perfectly agreed upon this one point, viz. that Yellow Fever never did spread in a pure atmosphere. The history of this dreadful disease in Europe, the West Indies, and in every city of



the United States, which has been afflicted by it, affords abundant proof of this fact. What then is to be done? From whatever cause, it may be supposed to originate, *such a degree of cleanliness and purity as may be found in the villages of the neighbourhood, or as near an approximation to it as possible, ought to be attempted.* During the winter season, the privies, in every part of the city, where it is thickly settled, ought to be carefully examined by discreet persons, and the most effectual mode of remedying every thing, which bore the least resemblance to a nuisance, ought promptly to be adopted. If the number of assistants attached to the Board of Health be not sufficient for the performance of this highly important duty, let them be doubled. No intelligent citizen will grudge the expense; because if the greatest cleanliness, which is practicable in our city will not effectually secure us from the return of pestilence, it will certainly add greatly to our comfort. If any one has been in the country, for a few weeks in the summer, is he not greatly annoyed, on his return, by very offensive smells, which proceed from almost every quarter and from causes, for which he cannot very easily account? The speedy remedy of this evil, therefore, requires the immediate attention of the Board of Health.

Our streets, for these some years past, have been kept uncommonly filthy. The plan adopted for cleaning them is radically wrong, and so long as it is continued, it will be in vain, that we look for any radical amendment. According to the present system, the Corporation receive from the contractors about six thousand dollars per annum for the privilege of being permitted to remove the street manure. What an absurdity? These contractors cause as much of the dirt to be taken up, as they think may best suit their purpose, and leave the rest behind to putrify and rot to the great danger of the health of the inhabitants. Dead hogs, dogs, cats, rats, &c. are permitted, to remain in our streets, for several days, during the warmest weather. Surely these things ought not so to be. I would now ask this question, whether it would not be much better to expend even ten thousand dollars per annum, and have our streets perfectly clean, than to receive six thousand dol-

lars and have them kept in their present most scandalous state. New-York is the most populous as well as the most wealthy city in the union. Let it no longer be said, with truth, that it is the most filthy.

I now come to another evil, to which I think that some attention ought to be paid, I mean the large cemeteries, which exist in the very centre of our city. Upon this subject, it is necessary to write with great caution, as there are many, who deem it proper, that their own bones and those of their relations should be deposited in consecrated ground. Far, very far be it from me to interfere with or to attempt to vilify the religious opinions of any one. This is a subject, on which every man ought, without censure, to be allowed to judge for himself. I think, however, that a mode might be adopted, by which the interment of the dead in the city may be discontinued without interfering with the religious scruples of any one. Let the Corporation appropriate for a *general burying ground* as much of the public land as may be necessary for that purpose, at the distance of about two miles from what is now the thick settled part of the city. Let this be fenced in, in a handsome manner, laid out in walks and planted with weeping willows or some other trees, which have a gloomy appearance. Let this general burying ground be laid out in lots appropriated for the use of the different religious societies in the city, and if any of these societies should wish that the spot allotted to them should be consecrated according to the rites of their church, to this there would be no objection. Here then every difficulty can be easily obviated. Are prayers supposed to be necessary for the dead, if the clergyman should find it inconvenient to accompany the deceased to the burying ground, let the corpse be brought to the church to which he belonged and there let the solemnities deemed necessary be performed. The body might then be conveyed to its long home, accompanied not by such a large retinue of thoughtless folks, as now attend funerals, and who, during the procession, talk of goods, wares and merchandize, as if nothing serious had happened; but by a few weeping friends, who deeply impressed by the loss of the deceased, would, during

their mournful walk be discoursing upon such subjects as was suitable for the occasion, In the centre of this burying ground, a place of worship might be erected, which should be common to all denominations, and here, upon certain days, agreed upon for the purpose, the clergymen of every particular sect might deliver to their respective congregations, suitable orations on the necessity of preparing for death and on the immortality of the soul. Were a mode of this kind adopted, it appears to me, that, in a short time, we would be surprised at the manner, in which we now conduct interments.

Agreeably to the present arrangement as enacted by the law of the State, there are three Commissioners appointed for the Health Department, one of whom is denominated the Health Officer, who, during the summer and autumnal months, necessarily resides at the Quarantine Ground; one the Resident Physician, and a third commonly called the Health Commissioner. The last of these gentlemen, Dr. Jacob Dyckman, although as active as any man could be in the discharge of his duty, was obliged in consequence of a bad state of health, to retire from the city. At a very important period, therefore, the Board lost his services, which from his well known industry and talents, would have, no doubt, been of great importance to the public. The duties assigned to the Resident Physician have, therefore, during the late season, been peculiarly arduous, and too much for one man to execute. Would it not, therefore be well, that hereafter instead of two Health Commissioners to reside in the city three should be appointed, whose business it should be amongst other things, particularly to attend to the very first alarm of any kind of malignant disease, to consult together on the subject, and to give the most early notice of their opinion to the President of the Board of Health. The appointment of this additional officer would cost the Corporation \$1000 per annum; but if it can, in the least, conduce to the object, which every good citizen has in view, viz. the preservation of the public health, no one will be found so penurious as to object to it.

Having now given my own opinion upon this interest-

ing subject, I shall proceed to give a brief statement of those of others. The following excellent address appeared in the Advocate of October 26th, and is headed thus :

#### THE LATE FEVER.

“By this name,” says Mr. Noah, “we can now call the fever, which, during the summer and fall has prevailed in this city, and which, under Providence may be considered nearly, if not totally extinct. Now,” says he, “that the danger is over, the season of deliberation has arrived and deeply should every citizen consider the cause and effects of this terrible disease, and unite in the best mode of preventing its future recurrence.

“No city in the Union has a more advantageous position for all the purposes of trade and commerce than New-York, Within a few hours sail of the ocean, a bold and safe harbour, with a great and flourishing back country, improved by roads and inland navigation. The rapid growth of this city; the increased numbers of merchants and traders; the vast amount of importation and revenue; the numerous purchases made by merchants from almost every state of the union; the great amount of money operations; the increased and increasing capital of money institutions; the capital also engaged in manufactures; the aggregate of tonnage, and the immense number of coasting and river craft unite in their consequences to make New-York the London of America.

“The public buildings and institutions,” says Mr. Noah, “are splendid and numerous and the city affords every comfort and convenience, which necessity or luxury can require. In this picture there is only one dark shade; *we are occasionally visited by Yellow Fever*, which, though not accompanied with a great loss of lives, is attended with a great sacrifice of business, comfort and convenience.

It is now incumbent upon all citizens to unite heart and hand, in order to devise the best means to keep this city healthy; to retain its foreign and inland trade, and to secure that prosperity, which nature and art has designed

for it. This must and can be done, and it will never answer for our inhabitants to sit by the fire-side and forget the past, and enjoy the present without reference to the future. They must recollect that if their lives be spared, posterity has powerful claims upon them.

One fact is indisputable; the position of New-York is undoubtedly as healthy as any in the world; it is surrounded by no marsh or low land; it is flanked by two noble rivers and constantly enjoys the sea and land breeze. The only points of importance, to which public attention must be fixed are those which relate to the *importation and origin of Yellow Fever*. Both avenues to disease must be guarded against; arrangements must be made to select a suitable spot in the vicinity of the city, where all vessels coming from unhealthy or suspicious ports may land their cargoes, take in a new freight, and pursue their voyage without coming to the wharves in the city, and there will all those, who believe in the importation of fever, be at once satisfied. The great and unremitted exertions, however, relate to the city; and a new, organized and approved system must be adopted.

Much depends upon the manner in which we begin the work of reformation, and upon this step may rest the entire success of the whole project. We would suggest that the Common Council should commence at a very early period after the return of the inhabitants, by appointing five citizens of information from each ward, who shall, *gratuitously* visit each house, yard, cellar and wharf in the ward, attended by a medical friend, and make report to the Corporation of the situation of such ward as relates to every object connected with public health. This will be a great medical map of the city which will present, at one view, the situation and points, which requires the immediate attention of the public authorities.

The introduction of WATER in copious quantities is another and indispensable object connected with health and comfort, and this project, however expensive, will nett an immense revenue to the Corporation, while it will produce the greatest benefit to the public. On this point,

there is no diversity of opinion. A private company will undertake to introduce water from the Bronx, if the Corporation shall decline to do it. A sufficient number of active and respectable Street Inspectors; the organization of a new Board of Health, with extensive powers; the establishment of a permanent health tax, to be applied only for that object, &c. and finally a close and unremitting attention to all and every object, which may promote public health will be the bounden and paramount duty of the public authorities.

"This subject," says he, "must be treated in the most serious and decided manner; it must take the lead of every other question; it must enlist every pen, command every press; for if the fever should prevail in this city, for two or three years in succession, we shall decline in prosperity as rapidly as we have advanced, &c." He ends thus. "If this calamity can be prevented by expending a *million of dollars*, we shall purchase it cheaply."\*

#### MODE OF TREATING THE YELLOW FEVER.

In the year 1819, Dr. Hosack at the request of Mr. Golden, who was then Mayor, addressed a letter to the Board of Health, containing a mode of treatment for those persons, who might be attacked with Yellow Fever after having left the city. The mode recommended, though simple, has been productive of the most beneficial effects in various instances where persons afflicted with it, were beyond the reach of medical aid. It was published by the Board, on the day after it had been received in the following manner.

BOARD OF HEALTH, September 21st, 1819.

The following valuable communication drawn up by Doctor Hosack at the request of the Mayor, is published by desire of the Board of Health.

J. MERTON, Sec'ry.

\* I would have cheerfully transcribed every word of this excellent essay; but my limits rendered it necessary, that I should curtail it.



New-York, September 20th, 1819.

Dear Sir,

As many of our citizens are now removing from the infected parts of the town, to the country, it is probable, judging from the occurrences of former years, that some may take with them the seeds of the prevailing disease. In such cases, especially where the sick may not have it in their power to command the attention of a physician, it is important, that they should have some knowledge of the treatment proper to be pursued.

Agreeably to your request, I have put together a few hints, pointing out the means, that experience has shewn to be attended with the greatest success.

When first indisposed by the symptoms announcing an attack of this disorder, viz. a sense of coldness, followed by severe pains of the head, back and limbs, great redness and burning of the eyes, with a degree of weight and oppression about the region of the stomach, the patient should immediately take an ounce of glauber, rochelle or epsom salts, drinking frequently a cup of thin gruel, toast-water, or herb tea, during their operation.

The patient being in bed, and covered with a blanket, perspiration is generally promoted at the same time, that the cathartic effects of the salts are produced.

Should the salts be rejected by vomiting, let the stomach be well supplied by a cup of warm water or camomile tea. When the stomach is composed, the salts may be again resorted to, or some other cathartic medicine may be administered, such as castor oil, rhubarb and magnesia, or the common domestic injection may be had recourse to.

When, by some of those means, the bowels have been relieved, the patient should continue the use of warm drinks, for the purpose of promoting perspiration, upon which, in a great degree, his safety depends.

Should the skin remain hot and dry, bathing the feet and legs in warm water, and drinking freely of warm lemonade, vinegar w<sup>h</sup>y, catnip, boneset, snake root, balm or sage tea, will rarely fail to affect a plentiful discharge by the surface. The spirits of mindererus given in doses of a table spoonful, every two hours, and occasionally

sponging the body with warm vinegar and water will also be very useful in effecting this object.

The perspiration being thus obtained, should be continued, if possible without intermission until the patient is perfectly free from fever, which will generally be the case in about 48 hours.

If the head be oppressed by stupor, a blister between the shoulders or two of them applied behind the ears will be useful. In an athletic habit of body, the loss of a few ounces of blood by cupping or by the arm, has, in some instances, afforded great relief; but this remedy is very rarely necessary or proper, for in most cases blood letting has been attended with fatal consequences.

If the stomach is disturbed and the drinks are rejected by vomiting attended with much anxiety or sighing, a blister should be instantly applied over the pit of the stomach. If this fails to give relief and the vomiting should prove obstinate, attended with dark coloured discharges, a mixture of equal parts of lime water and milk, given in small quantities (say half a wine glass full of each every half hour) will frequently arrest it. In some cases, the lime water alone, and, in others the milk alone, has been found useful, while, in some few cases porter and lime water combined has been successful, when every thing else has proved ineffectual.

While these means are made use of, the extremities should be kept warm by fomentations of vinegar and water, or spirits and water frequently renewed, and cataplasms composed of meal, mustard and vinegar should be applied to the soles of the feet. In some instances, blisters applied to the ancles or to the wrists have arrested a vomiting that had resisted every other means.

The diet of the sick, in this disease, should be simple and chiefly composed of vegetable nourishments, such as barley water, indian or oatmeal gruel, arrowroot, sago and panada, and, for a few days, during convalescence, the patient should altogether avoid animal food, and when he returns to the use of it, he should first take it in the form of soups, and these prepared with a large proportion of rice, barley and other vegetables.

Emetics and mercury, which are generally prescribed

in the bilious remittent and typhus fevers, are, for the most part, prejudicial in this form of fever, and ought seldom to be employed and then only under the direction of a physician.

Allow me to add this truth, however humiliating it may be to the pride of science, and I mention it in confirmation of the good effects of this comparatively mild treatment, that, in the Yellow Fever of 1798, under the direction of Richardson Underhill, a member of the Society of Friends, who like another Howard, volunteered his services to the poor, on that memorable occasion, a greater proportion of persons ill of that disease, were cured by means of castor oil and catnip than by those more active prescriptions employed by many of the physicians of our city.

With the hope, that these suggestions may be useful,  
I am, Dear Sir, &c.

DAVID HOSACK.

THE HON. CADWALLADER D. COLDEN.

*Of the best mode of purifying houses after the occurrence of Yellow Fever.*

Upon this subject I have already given the opinion of Dr. Pascalis. Propriety requires, that I should, likewise, give that of Doctor Hosack, which was published in the Evening Post on the 26th of October and afterwards republished in several other papers. It fortunately happens, that neither of their recommendations can be of use to our fellow citizens at present; but as I am persuaded, that some persons will preserve this little volume, I deem it proper to insert it, as in case of the occurrence of a similar calamity either in this city or in any other in the United States at a future period, it may be the means of preserving a number of valuable lives.

The Doctor, after several pertinent observations proceeds thus. "By his fellow citizens it should be remembered, that, in former years, after every such visitation of fever as has now been experienced, *numerous cases* occurred, wherein persons returning from the pure air of the country, to their dwellings in the city, before a due

cleansing and ventilation had taken place of the apartments that had been occupied by the sick, or which were within the sphere of the morbid poison, have become infected, and have fallen victims to the disease. To guard against similar consequences is the object of the few following directions to those who may be thus exposed. The public being apprised by the Board of Health, when a due degree of cold shall have occurred, and the citizens may return in safety to their homes, I should still advise attention to the following directions:—

*First.*—Upon opening the doors of their dwellings, the external air should have a free admission for a short time previous to their entrance; for although a severe frost may have existed in the outer atmosphere, it does not follow that the same degree of cold has produced its full effect upon the warm air inclosed within the dwellings; that have been for many weeks shut up.

*Secondly.*—Let all the doors and windows of the house be thrown open, so as to secure a free passage of air throughout all its apartments—this too will be greatly promoted by making small fires in the principal rooms of the house.

*Thirdly.*—Let the floors be cleansed by soap and water, and the walls of the apartments white-washed. In houses that have been occupied by the sick, this measure and that which follows, are indispensably necessary.

*Fourthly.*—Let the air be purified by the following process—place an ounce of finely powdered salt-petre in a common saucer, and pour upon it an ounce of the oil of vitriol. Saucers thus prepared should be distributed in different parts of the house, one or two on each floor, according to the dimensions of the building. If they are placed upon chafing dishes, the decomposition of the nitre, and the diffusion of the gas that is extricated, will be sooner effected. I am aware that the *chlorine* or *oxymuriatic acid vapour* is preferred by many; but as manganese, which is necessary for its preparation, is not readily obtained in sufficient quantity at this time, and as the nitric acid vapour is well ascertained to afford a powerful antidote to infection, I do not think it necessary to encumber this advice by formulæ, that are not likely to be adopted.

In addition to the testimony advanced in the valuable letters of Mr. Griscom, lately published, I remark, that the above processes for disinfecting impure air, have not only been adopted in the navy, in the military hospitals, and the prisons of Great Britain, but they have also been carried into operation with the greatest success, for the suppression of typhus and other malignant and contagious fevers, in all the *hospitals, fever wards, and houses of recovery*, belonging to and connected with the extensive manufacturing establishments of Manchester, Birmingham, Chester, &c.

The salutary effects of these chemical agents have also been satisfactorily established, not only by the reiterated experience of Carmichael Smith and Gnyton de Morveau, but their efficacy has also been attested by the truly respectable names of Percival, Currie, Ferriar and Henry, whose observations may be found by consulting the "*Memoirs of the Manchester Board of Health*," a work recently received in this country.

With the hope that these remarks may be found useful,

I am, dear sir, yours,

DAVID HOSACK.

I now come to a subject, which has heretofore excited very little inquiry in the United States; but which however, is of very great importance, viz.

*Can the Yellow Fever be taken a second time.*

On this interesting subject, I have before me a letter ON FEBRILE CONTAGION, addressed to Dr. Hosack, by John W. Francis, M. D. &c. dated, London, 16th June, 1816. It contains much valuable and truly interesting matter, the whole of which I would have inserted with pleasure; but my limits compel me to the selection of a very few extracts. I would observe, however, that it was published in the *New-York Medical and Physical Journal*, Vol. 1. Edited by Drs. Francis, Beck, and Dyckman, and that it is well worthy of the perusal of every practitioner of medicine, whatever his opinion may be with respect to the contagious nature of Yellow Fever.



The Dr. says, that Dr. Pym, in his observations, has attempted to prove that the fever of Gibraltar was the same as the Bulam fever, so happily described by the learned and distinguished Chisholm; that it is a disease totally distinct from the Billious Remittent Fever of warm climates; that it has no connection with or relation to marsh miasmmata; that it appears in the West-Indies only under peculiar circumstances; that it is contagious, and under a certain degree of temperature may be propagated from one country to another; that it attacks, in a comparatively mild form, natives of a warm climate, or Europeans whose constitutions have been assimilated to a warm climate; and that it differs from all other fevers, in having its contagious powers increased by heat, and destroyed by cold, or even by a free circulation of moderately cool air.

But I have says he, to solicit your attention to another important circumstance made known in the volumes of Dr. Pym and Sir James Fellows, and to communicate which this letter has been written. Dr. Pym, who had the advantage of seeing the disease not only in Europe but in the West Indies, contends, that the Bulam fever attacks the *human frame but once*; and supports this position by the strongest proof.

“Two proofs of the Bulam fever not attacking a second time, were in the 70th and 55th regiments. The first suffered severely from the disease in the West-Indies, in the year 1794, and returned to that climate from Europe in the year 1800, filled up with new officers, with the exception of six, who had had the fever at a former period in the West Indies, and who now escaped it, although the corps buried ten of the newly appointed officers in a very short time.”

“Upon a moderate computation, there were *one hundred and fifty* officers (civil and military) at Gibraltar, who had not had the disease before, and twenty-five who had passed it in the West-Indies; and making an allowance for one or two doubtful cases, where the disease was so mild as not to confine the patient to the bed; one hundred and forty-five at least out of the one hundred and fifty were attacked by it, while every individual of



the twenty-five who had it before escaped it; proof positive, that the Gibraltar, West-India, or Bulam fever, are the same disease, and that the human frame is not liable to be attacked by it a second time, even after a lapse of ten years." *Appendix to Dr. Pym's Observations.*

At Cadiz, last year, though the fever put on the very worst symptoms, and destroyed the patient frequently in forty-eight hours, the deaths did not exceed, in a population of upwards of seventy thousand, fifty a day; and these were chiefly strangers. The Spaniards are so fully convinced they cannot receive the infection a second time, that having passed the disease is matter of great rejoicing among them. Consult the transactions of that active and distinguished association, the Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, vol. 5, for more ample details.

The immunity of the constitution from a second attack of Yellow Fever, is a peculiarity so strikingly characteristic of most disorders of an acknowledged specific nature, and of such great practical interest both in a social and political point of view, that it is extraordinary it should have met with so little notice before Professor Arejula made mention of it in the year 1806.

In the Facts and Observations of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, on the nature and origin of the pestilential fever, after establishing the identity of the Yellow Fever which existed in that city in 1793, 1797 and 1798, with the West-India pestilence, the College states that it is a circumstance that deserves particular attention, that "very few, if any, of the Creole French in this city, [Philadelphia] suffered from the contagious malignant fever which prevailed here in 1793, 1797 and 1798, though the disease was introduced into their families; and children born in this country of Creole parents, died with it last autumn, while the parents and the children born in the West-Indies were entirely exempt from it."

Dr. Currie tells us, that the French West-Indians, particularly those from St. Domingo, almost to a man, escaped the disorder, though they made use of no precaution for the purpose, "while those from France were

as liable to it as the Philadelphians.” Nothing in relation to the security from a second attack of the disease is advanced by the late Professor Bayley, in his excellent volume on the Epidemic Fever of New-York, in 1795; though in the Collection of Papers published by Mr. Webster, this writer on the epidemic of New-York, of the same year, alleges that he knew not a decided instance of an individual labouring under a second seizure.——But at present I am not duly prepared to enlarge on this point, by reference to other American authorities.

Permit me now to make known to you the important results of the recent deliberations of two of the most distinguished medical associations of this kingdom. The decisions of the Royal College of Physicians of London and of the Army Medical Board are at length brought to a close. These two learned bodies, alike distinguished for scientific attainment and practical knowledge, have been for a considerable time past devoted to a consideration of all the facts connected with the nature and character of the Yellow Fever, particularly as it has of late years appeared in Spain. The Royal College have pronounced that the Yellow Fever is a highly contagious disease, which decision they have reported to the Lords of the Privy Council. With respect to its attacking the human frame but once, they say they think it *extremely probable*, but that upon a point of such importance they cannot venture to give a decided opinion. The Army Medical Board, at the head of which presides Sir James M'Gregor, have also given it as their opinion, in the following words:

(COPY.)

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT UPON DR. PYM'S PUBLICATION BY THE ARMY MEDICAL BOARD.

*Army Medical Board Office, 6th May, 1816.*

“It is due to Dr. Pym to state, that we consider him to have been the first English medical man who promulgated the opinion, that the disease in question (the Bulam Fever) is capable of attacking the human frame but once;

and if that opinion be correct, which we believe it to be, it is certainly an important fact, and led Dr. Pym to employ those persons as attendants on the sick, who had undergone the disease, and therefore were not likely to be affected by the contagion of it, and thus probably saved many lives. Under these impressions, we beg leave to recommend the industry and research displayed by Dr. Pym, in his book, to Lord Palmerstone's favourable consideration.

"Signed,

"J. M'GREGOR,

"W. FRANKLIN,

"W. SOMERVILLE."

#### DESULTORY OBSERVATIONS.

I have every reason to believe that the Doctor is correct, in the opinion, which he has advanced, viz. that a person who has once had the Yellow Fever need be under no great fear, that he will be afflicted with it a second time. Although no physician, I have seen at least, as much of this disease as any man in the United States, and as circumstances have led me to think frequently upon the subject, from the year 1798 to the present period, I can aver, that I only recollect one instance, in which a person has been afflicted with Yellow Fever a second time, and of this case I am not absolutely certain, as the second attack, which, during the present season, terminated fatally might have been the common Bilious Remittent Fever, between which and Yellow Fever, though there is a vast difference, it requires a skilful and experienced physician to discriminate. Dr. Francis does not go so far as to say, that the Yellow Fever cannot possibly be taken a second time. When our children have got over the small pox and the measles, our minds are at ease respecting their future safety from either of these diseases. Still however, it has happened, that individuals have been attacked by one or other of them a second time. But I speak within bounds, when I assert, that a case of this kind does not occur once out of fifty thousand persons, and I believe it will be found equally true with respect to Yellow Fever.

This subject, in an eminent degree, deserves the consideration of our physicians, as, if it should be found to be true, it might ease the minds of many of our fellow citizens from unnecessary fear.

---

The disease, with which we have been afflicted, spared neither age nor sex. Thus we find the venerable John Dover to die with it who was in his 84th year, and also children of six or seven years of age. Blacks as well as whites fell victims to the dire calamity. A much greater proportion of men died than of women. The reason is obvious. Women remained at home, while men were under the necessity of going abroad in pursuit of the means of supporting their families, and very probably led from necessity into the infected district.

---

It was usual, at first, to speak of the infected district; but about the middle of September, we had two, which were known by the names of the Lower and the Upper infected districts. The limits of the former I have already described as being hemmed in by fences. The latter might be said to have been comprised from Henry-street to the East River, and between Catharine and Pike Streets. In Lombardy and Cheapside Streets, within these bounds, the disease had been peculiarly fatal, very few having recovered, who had been attacked by it. What cause brought the distemper to this quarter of the city, it is impossible for me to say. Here, however, as well as in the Rector-street district, while the pestilence was raging, the other parts of the city were fully as exempt from pestilence as on the Allegany mountains. It may, therefore, be supposed, that the disease in both these districts either originated from, or was promulgated by some local cause. This the Board of Health will, no doubt, cause to be investigated with all possible despatch.

I have already mentioned, that when it was obvious, that a pestilential disease existed amongst us, the Board of Health advised the inhabitants in the infected district to remove, and very humanely provided places of refuge, to which the poor might resort and be supported at the public expense, during the calamity. These were, the public buildings at Fort Richmond, and a house rented by the Board at Kip's Bay. To the former of these, 208 persons were sent, who were amply supplied with provisions, under the superintendence of Mr. William Duxton, a gentleman well known for his humanity, and where every thing necessary for their comfort and convenience was amply supplied. At Kip's Bay, there were 30 persons, who were supported in the same manner. Of those, who went to those places, there were several who died of Yellow Fever, which they had contracted, previous to their removal from the city. Had they at a more early period, attended to the benevolent admonitions of the Board, their lives might, in all probability, have been saved.

---

In the year 1798, when the population of our city was not more than half as great, as it is at present, the number of deaths by Yellow Fever was calculated at one thousand five hundred and twenty-four. After the close of the present sickly season, and making an allowance for a number, who may have died in the country, concerning whom we have received no correct information, it is probable, that the whole did not exceed three hundred. The disease, I am convinced, was fully as malignant as in the year 1798; but the timely flight of our citizens, in a great measure, averted the dreadful fate, which they might otherwise have experienced. As I have the vanity to think, that my book may be preserved by some, I do most earnestly suggest to my fellow citizens, in case of another calamity of the kind, the propriety of moving immediately, after the Board of Health shall have given the alarm. They may be assured, that this alarm will never be given, without due cause.



It is remarkable, that though several persons were sent to the City Hospital, sick of Yellow Fever, at the commencement of the disease, no one there was infected by it; but what is still more remarkable, there was a woman of the name of Walsh in Bridewell, in the month of September, who soon after had the disease in its worst form. The house was, at that time very much crowded; but neither infection nor contagion ensued. The fact is, that neither, during the sickness of the present year or of that in any preceding, has there been a single instance in the Alms House, Bridewell, Penitentiary, or State Prison, in which there has been one solitary case of infection or contagion. They enjoy, it is true, in all those places a most salubrious air; but their preservation from disease may, likewise, be attributed to their plain and wholesome diet. A superfluity of food, to which those who are in easy circumstances too often accustom themselves, occasions crudities on the stomach, which, in all probability will occasion disease. A spare diet, during the summer months will ever be found to be the best preservative of health.

---

The death of fourteen persons by Yellow Fever has occurred since the 26th October, the names of whom I have transcribed from the record kept by the City Inspector and inserted in the alphabetical list of deaths, hereunto annexed. I have, likewise, ascertained the names of a few other persons, who died of fever, which were not in the list, with which his Honour the Mayor was so obligingly pleased to furnish me. These I have, likewise, inserted in the said Alphabetical list. The whole number will then be 254, to which may very probably be added an indefinite number of, perhaps, thirty more, who may have died in various parts of the country, concerning whom we have received no particular information.

Immediately after the address of the Board to their fellow citizens on the 26th October, the absentees began to return to their respective abodes with a precipitation



almost unparalleled. Forty or fifty carts and waggons could be seen in a line transporting goods, wares, merchandise and household furniture from the Village of Greenwich and places in the outskirts of the city, to the stores and houses, from which they had been taken, several weeks before. On the 5th November, the Custom House, Post-Office, Banks, Insurance Offices, Printing Offices, Vendue Masters, Merchants, &c. returned to their former habitations. About this time, the places of worship, which had been so long shut, in the lower part of the city, were re-opened, vessels came to our docks as usual, and a bustle again became visible at the former places of trade and commerce. But alas! the city of New-York has received a shock, from which it will not soon recover. The rich have felt it and the laborious poor, who during this sickly season, have had no employment, may suffer severely during the approaching winter, unless the hand of charity be extended towards them.

---

What striking instances of the transitory nature of life, does such a disease afford! We see men exulting in the bloom of youth and prime of health and strength, in three or four days numbered with the dead. Our gayest companions, our most amiable friends, in less than a week, are laid in the dust. When we have been daily witnessing these scenes around us, who can avoid reflecting, that *his turn may be next*; yet the mind, when habituated to the most afflictive and extraordinary events becomes hardened and views them with indifference. Disease and death the most dreadful accidents, which can affect the human frame, when made familiar to the sight, cease to inspire dread and are ranked with the most common occurrences.

The following statement will show the number of cases and deaths by Yellow Fever in each street, by which the citizens may form some judgment to what extent the infection has existed in their particular neighbourhood.

The cases enumerated in each street, are only those who were considered as having their permanent residence there; and those enumerated under the head of *frequenting the infected district*, are only such whose residence was in a healthy part of the city, but who contracted the disease by frequenting the infected parts.

It is computed that there are but six cases which have not been traced to the West and South of Fulton-street, and but two cases that have not been traced to that part of the city included within the bounds of Catharine, Banker and Pike-streets, and the river.

STREETS.	Cases.	Deaths.	STREETS.	Cases.	Deaths.
Rector - - -	19	11	Garden - - -	1	0
Washington - -	27	18	Beaver - - -	5	2
Greenwich - - -	22	11	Stone - - -	3	1
Lumber - - -	11	7	Mill - - -	1	0
Broadway - - -	33	20	Moore - - -	2	0
Carlisle - - -	3	1	State - - -	3	1
Beaver-lane - -	4	4	Pearl - - -	13	8
Albany - - -	2	2	Water - - -	19	14
Thames - - -	6	4	Front - - -	5	4
Cedar - - -	8	7	Old-Slip - - -	2	2
Wall - - -	7	4	Dutch - - -	6	2
Broad - - -	14	7	Ann - - -	1	1
New - - -	3	2	Ferry - - -	1	1
Nassau - - -	10	5	Chamber - - -	1	0
William - - -	11	4	Frequented sick-		
Pine - - -	2	1	ly district, but		
Liberty - - -	16	9	reside in the		
Courtlandt - -	12	8	upper part of		
Maiden lane -	10	4	the city - -	65	34
Dey - - -	1	0			
John - - -	2	1	Total - -	355	202
Fulton - - -	4	2			

STREETS.	Cases.	Deaths.	STREETS.	Cases.	Deaths.
UPPER DISTRICT.			Frequented the		
Cheapside - -	11	6	sickly district		
Lombardy - -	13	8	but reside in		
Bancker - -	7	5	the healthy part		
Catharine - -	4	3	of the city -	9	4
Lewis, Grand -	2	2			
			Total - -	46	28

## RECAPITULATION.

Cases in Lower District	- - - - -	355
Cases in Upper District	- - - - -	46
Total	- - - - -	401
Deaths in Lower District	- - - - -	202
Deaths in Upper District	- - - - -	28
Total	- - - - -	230

The foregoing exhibit includes several cases which have not been reported to the Board of Health, but they are all such, as warranted a belief in the information received, that they were cases of Yellow Fever.

By order of the Board.

STEPHEN ALLEN, Pres.

J. MORTON, Secr'y.

# A LIST

*Of all the cases and deaths occasioned by Yellow Fever as reported to the Board of Health, or otherwise ascertained from 16th July, to 26th. October, 1822.*

DATES.				DATES.			
		Cases.	Deaths.			Cases.	Deaths.
July	16	-	1	24	-	6	4
	17	-	4	25	-	5	4
	20	-	1	26	-	4	1
	25	-	3	27	-	4	4
	26	-	4	28	-	6	6
	29	-	3	29	-	6	2
	30	-	2	30	-	4	3
Aug.	3	-	1	31	-	4	3
	4	-	1	Sept. 1	-	4	4
	5	-	2	2	-	5	3
	6	-	4	4	-	9	5
	9	-	9	5	-	10	8
	10	-	2	6	-	3	2
	11	-	1	7	-	6	1
	12	-	1	8	-	6	4
	13	-	4	9	-	6	4
	14	-	3	10	-	6	2
	15	-	1	11	-	10	4
	16	-	3	12	-	7	3
	17	-	3	13	-	5	2
	18	-	1	14	-	5	2
	19	-	6	15	-	11	6
	20	-	4	16	-	9	4
	21	-	7	17	-	3	2
	22	-	4	18	-	5	2
	23	-	5	19	-	7	2

DATES.					DATES.				
				<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>				
	20	-	-	12	7		9	-	-
	21	-	-	4	2		10	-	-
	22	-	-	11	6		11	-	-
	23	-	-	12	6		12	-	-
	24	-	-	9	2		13	-	-
	25	-	-	8	6		14	-	-
	26	-	-	12	6		15	-	-
	27	-	-	9	5		16	-	-
	28	-	-	4	2		17	-	-
	29	-	-	0	0		18	-	-
Oct.	1	-	-	2	0		19	-	-
	2	-	-	4	2		20	-	-
	3	-	-	3	2		21	-	-
	4	-	-	4	2		22	-	-
	5	-	-	7	2		23	-	-
	6	-	-	1	1		24	-	-
	7	-	-	8	3		25	-	-
	8	-	-	4	3		26	-	-

## A LIST

*Of those who Died of Yellow Fever contracted in the  
City of New-York, from 16th July to  
November, 1822.*

## A

*August 1.*—Archer Leonard W. corner of Greenwich and Rector Streets.

28.—Agg Thomas, from 96 Broadway; Albany.

26.—Atkinson Mary, wife of William, from 47 Greenwich-street; Marine Hospital.

*September* .—Ackerly Mr. from the city of Washington, landed in or near the infected district; in Canal-street.

21.—Adams Mrs. Sterling, from No. 107 Fulton-street; Carleton-street.

24.—Allen Mrs., the wife of Thomas, from Duane-street, near Broadway; at Hoboken, N. J.

28.—Armstrong Henry, 163 Washington-street.

*October 29.*—Archad Susan, Henry-street.

## B

*August 19.*—Beck William, who had been in the infected district; 98 Harman-street.

23.—Brown Thomas, 14 Thames-street.

28.—Boulinger Edward, from 84 Broadway; Marine Hospital.

28.—Buckmaster Mrs., from Beaver-lane; Marine Hospital.

*September 29.*—Bailey Mrs. Eliza, from 12 Cheapside-street; Marine Hospital.

30.—Bailey Miss Eliza, Marine Hospital.

24.—Baisely Nicholas, who had been in the infected district; Brooklyn.

26.—Baisely Antoinette, his daughter, aged 11 years; Brooklyn.

21.—Bayley Catharine, 12 Cheapside-street.

23.—Beeker Victor, from 68 Beaver-street; Marine Hospital.



20.—Bennet Mrs., from 43 Courtlandt-street; Marine Hospital.

20.—Benthoyzen Patty, 124 Washington-street.

15.—Berault Mrs., next to the corner of Wall and Broad Streets; Bloomingdale.

22.—Bityerman John, from the Sugar House in Liberty-street; 156 Crosby-street.

28.—Boyce Frederick, from 11 Dutch-street; Marine Hospital.

30.—Brightley Alfred, 80 Water-street.

20.—Brown Hannah, 18 Cheapside-street.

8.—Buchan Thomas, from the infected district; 221 Church-street.

.—Bull William H. from 2 Wall-street; at the five mile stone.

24.—Bunn Reuben, shoemaker, 69 William-street.

8.—Bush Reader, from the Sugar House in Liberty-street; 77 Mott-street.

20.—Byrne Murtagh, from 124 Fly-Market, at Harlaem.

*October* 16.—Ball Abraham, 67 Water-street.

7.—Balsdon Josiah, 168 Water-street.

19.—Beach Agur, 496 Greenwich-street.

18.—Blakely Isabella, corner of Vesey and Washington Streets.

9.—Brisland John, 343 Water-street.

24.—Burns Christopher, 48 Pearl-street.

23.—Butler Alexander, from Catharine-street; Marine Hospital.

.—Boy, (coloured) 42 Broad-street.

28.—Bower Thomas, 7 Ferry-street.

# C

*August* 12.—Cade Thomas, from 61 Lumber-street; 192 Division-street.

27.—Clayton Thomas, 12 Thames-street.

.—Coates Mrs., from 122 Liberty-street; at 295 Bowery.

.—Coates, her son, do.

31.—Constantine Miss, from corner of New and Wall Streets; Bowery.

30.—Coxen Dinah, from 21 Cedar-street; 24 Garden-street.

*September* 8.—Carney John, from 5 Courtlandt; at 81 Orange-street.

—Corwin Mrs. 28 Park.

13.—Carney Miss, from 5 Courtlandt-street; at Kip's Bay.

13.—Cary Mrs., from 4 Lombardy-street; Staten-Island

1.—Cato Catharine, from corner of West and Liberty Streets; Staten-Island.

8.—Chace David, who had been in Wall-street near Broadway; 380 Pearl-street.

10.—Christy Dupeire, 42 Courtlandt-street.

23.—Cisco William, who had been in the infected district; corner of Charleton and Washington Streets.

28.—Claar Mrs. Sarah, 75 Cherry-street.

5.—Coit Mrs., from 92 Chamber-street; at Kip's Bay.

22.—Conklin John, 177 Fulton-street.

10.—Corton Abel, from corner of Nassau and Pine Streets; Marine Hospital.

22.—Cowen John, foot of Murray-street; Marine Hospital.

*October* 20.—Chappeau Clarissa, 128 Banker-street.

20.—Clark Mary, from 31 Lumber-street; at 217 Chapel-street.

20.—Crawford Elizabeth, 128 Banker-street.

19.—Curriel Joseph, 349 Water-street.

28.—Carroll Mary, Pike-street.

#### D

*August* 17.—Decker Jeremiah, from Rector-street; 306 Spring-street.

18.—Dennies I. C. from Carlisle-street; City Jersey.

31.—Ditchett Samuel, from 82 Broadway; Marine Hospital.

17.—Doughly David S. from 87 Greenwich-street; 6 Roosevelt-street.

29.—Dykeman Joseph, from the infected district; Walker-street.

*September* —Dally James, from 61 Cedar-street; 17 Harman-street.

22.—Darly Mrs. from 23 Broad-street; Newark, N. J.

.—Davis Thomas, 199 Fulton-street.

13.—Davis John, from 42 Washington-st. Brook lyn.

13.—Davison George, from Broadway near Courtlandt-street; 28 Barclay-street.

24.—Dickson Ann, from Fort Richmond; Marine Hospital.

26.—Dickson Andrew, from Do. at Do.

1.—Dixon John, from 74 Liberty-street; 59 Thomas-street.

8.—Dover John; 164 Broadway.

October 8.—Dempsey Catharine; 88 Front-street.

11.—Dempsey John, from 88 Front-street; Marine Hospital.

22.—Denn Patrick, who had been at 14 Broadway; 62 Barclay-street.

27.—Devoe Samuel; 19 Water-street.

23.—Dibbert John, day and night watchman; 31 Old Slip.

## E

September 29.—Earl Martin; 99 Vesey-street.

October 10.—Edward Mr., 52 Lombardy-street.

17.—Eldred Israel, who had been in Rector-street; Bloomingdale.

.—Everson Alfred, at Springfield, N. J.

## F

August 18.—Floyd Dr. Samuel, from 130 Greenwich-street; City Jersey.

September 23.—Fraitus Mrs., from corner of Pearl and State Streets; Bloomingdale.

October 7.—Fairley Sally; 28 Lombardy-street.

24.—Ferguson Matthew, 24 Lombardy-street.

## G

October 7.—Garland John, from 49 Water-street; Marine Hospital.

5.—Garnis Philip, a day watchman in the infected district; 16 James-street.

10.—Grant Ebenezer T. 205 William-street,

30.—Goodrich Henry, 68 Vesey-street.

## H

August 4.—Hamilton John, who had been in Rector-street; 20 Howard-street.

8.—Heffernan Thomas, from 95 Washington-street; New-York Hospital.

.—Hill John, from 6 Albany-street; City Jersey.

7.—Hill Polly; 6 Albany-street.

*September* 18.—Hamilton George, from corner of Whitehall and Stone-streets; 50 Mercer-street.

28.—Haywood John, who had been in the infected district; 138 Water-street.

.—Hawser Martin, Sullivan-street; from 42 Liberty-street.

.—Hartman Harman, from Sugar House in Liberty-street; 118 Forsyth-street.

30.—Haywood Polly; 138 Water-street.

1.—Helm U. W. who had been at the corner of New and Wall Streets; 35 Pearl-street.

24.—Hopkins Daniel C. Lewis near Delancey-st.

6.—Howland Lydia, corner of Cedar and Temple Streets.

13.—Hume Catharine, from 4 Bowling Green; Marine Hospital.

*October* .—Harris Elisha, from 1 Old-Slip; New Canaan, (Connecticut.)

5.—Hull John, a day and night watchman, 50 Pearl-st.

5.—Hull Nancy, wife of the above named John, at the same place.

## I

*September* 25.—Isaacs Samuel M. sent from Brooklyn to the Marine Hospital.

*October* 12.—Irving John, who had been distributing lime; 19 Cross-street.

## J

*August* 31.—Jackson Elizabeth, 152 Chamber-street.

26.—Jenkinson Jane, who had been through Cedar-street; 62 Broadway.

*September* 11.—Jaques D. who had been in the infected district; New-Jersey.

19.—Jaques Henry Freeman; 29 Pearl-street.

19.—Jones Ellis, from 99 Washington-street; 158 Harman-street.

*October* 24.—Jones Catharine; 7 Cheapside-street.

30.—Jones Henrietta, 7 Cheapside-street.

## K

*August 15.*—Kampmeyer John, from Washington near Rector-street; 174 Broadway.

13.—Kaylor Mrs. from Rector-street; Harlaem.

21.—Keith Ansell, from 10 Lumber-st.; Vandam-st.

24.—Kemp Mrs., from 61 Broadway; Brooklyn.

22.—Kerney Robert, dock builder, 40 Washington-st.

15.—Kline John, a labourer from the infected district; 158 Harman-street.

24.—Knott John, 78 Cedar-street.

*September 15.*—Kewin James, from Liberty-street; 8 Thomas-street.

4.—Knott Miss, from 78 Cedar-street; Newtown, L. I.

.—Kerney John, 81 Orange-street.

.—Kerney Miss, sister of John, from do.

*October 6.*—Ketchum Sarah, 29 Gold-street.

18.—Krough Martin, 343 Water-street.

29.—Kelly Catharine, from 25 Old Slip.

## L

*September 30.*—Ladda John, 28 Lombardy-street.

5.—Lamb Cornelius H. 80 Water-street.

22.—Langors Peter, from 43 Courtlandt-street; Marine Hospital.

1.—Law John, from New-street; Newark, N. J.

1.—Lawson William, from 45 Courtlandt-street; Middletown Point, N. J.

2.—Luff John N. had been at 41 Broad-st.; Grand-st.

*October 9.*—Lyon Mrs., wife of Samuel, 11 Ann-st.

31.—Leland Bellamin, 65 Water-street.

.—Lawrence Lathcum, 325 Greenwich-street.

## M

*August 20.*—M'Kenna John, from Cedar-street; corner of Washington and Chamber Streets.

30.—Mathers Joseph, from 40 Broadway; Greenwich Village.

28.—Mathers Mrs., wife of Joseph; same place.

10.—Moore Elizabeth, from Rector-street; Hamilton Square.

30.—Morrison Mrs., from 43 Broadway; Sullivan-st.

14.—Muchett Miss, from corner of Lumber and Rector Streets; Newark, N. J.

*September 4.*—M'Catharty Ann, 4 Greenwich-street.

- 26.—M'Ginnis James, from 123 Greenwich-street;  
19 Broadway.
- 17.—M'Phelan Martin, from City Hotel; Marine  
Hospital.
- 9.—M'Pherson Elizabeth, from Beaver-lane; Mid-  
dletown Point, N. J.
- 9.—Her sister, at the same place.
- 18.—Magee Deborah, aged 51, wife of Safety Magee;  
46 Pine-street.
- 7.—Mathewson Lawrance, New near Beaver-street.
- 14.—Merritt Mary, 69 Courtlandt-street.
- Morgan William, from Carlisle-st.; Amboy, N. J.
- Morgan Mrs. do. do
- 8.—Morris Mary, from 144 Washington-street; 19  
Desbrosses-street.
- 12 —Morse Mrs. Ebenezer, from 5 Courtlandt-street;  
Hubert-street.
- 19.—Mott George W. from 4 Lombardy-street; Ma-  
rine Hospital.
- Mason Thomas, from 62 Courtlandt-street;  
Brooklyn.
- M'Isaacks Samuel, from 42 Washington-street;  
at Quarantine.
- 22.—Murphy John; 48 Pearl-street.
- 24.—Murray Alexander, from 35 Maiden-lane; City  
Jersey.
- 28.—Murray Andrew; 33 Nassau-street.
- October* 18.—M'Cartney Jane, 45½ Nassau-street.
- 31.—Murray Josiah, 26 Front-street.
- 14.—Mahoney Dennis, 105 William-street.
- 6.—Morrel Jacob, cartman, had been in the infected  
district; 7 Ludlow-street.
- 10.—Morris Michael, hack driver, from 125 Antho-  
ny-street; Marine Hospital.
- November* 4.—M'Cord John, Suffolk-street.
- N
- August* 18.—Newell Robert; 383 Greenwich-street.
- September* 1.—Neal Jude, from 9 Wall-street; 79  
Mulberry-street.
- 2.—Nott John, from Lumber-street; 37 Augustus-st.
- North James, 21 Nassau-street.



24.—Nelson Joseph, Broad corner of Garden Streets.

*October 4.*—Nestel Christian, from 81 Catharine; 33 Allen-street.

## O

*August* .—Oldham Hugh, corner of Liberty and Washington Streets.

*September 3.*—Overend William, corner of Liberty and West Streets.

17.—O'Donald Jane, 38 Lumber-street.

## P

*August 5.*—Philips Mrs. Naphali, from 68 Greenwich-street; corner of Chamber-street and Broadway.

21.—Perkins Jonathan, who had been in the infected district; Canal near Chapel Streets.

*September 13.*—Parks Richard, from City Hotel; 152 Leonard street.

23.—Pike Elizabeth, 96 Water-street.

*October 3.*—Philmore John, Front near Walnut-st.

4.—Polhemus John, a day watchman; Green near Broome-street.

5.—Page Mrs. Mary; 12 Ferry-street.

14.—Phelan, Patrick who had returned from the country; corner of Front and Depeyster Streets.

16.—Pearson Thomas; 105 William-street.

17.—Phelan Andrew, corner of Front and Depeyster-Streets.

## Q

*August 21.*—Quackinboss Abraham, had been in the infected district; 46 Leonard-street.

## R

*July 17.*—Reeder Caroline, aged 9 years; 26 Rector-street.

17.—Reeder John, aged 15 years; same house.

24.—Rose Miss, corner of Greenwich and Rector-Streets, aged 7 years.

*August 26.*—Roberts Hannah, from 55 Broadway; corner of Duane and Cross Streets.

*September 16.*—Ragan Marian, from 13 Broad-street; at 2 James' slip.

17.—Reeves Sarah, from 10 Old Slip; 19 Henry-street.

.—Regan Edward from 52 Lombardy-street.

28.—Robinson John, Water-street.

27.—Rodgers Gilbert H., from 363 Pearl-street; Marine Hospital.

7.—Rollinson John, from 23 Washington-street; corner of Pearl and Collect Streets.

*October 29.*—Reed John, who had returned from the country on the 16th; corner of Grand and Forsyth Sts.

19.—Reed Samuel, 115 Cherry-street.

20.—Rankin Alexander, 48 Pearl-street.

## S

*August 17.*—Scorgie John, (Scotland), from 55 Washington-street; Bank-street, between 12th and 13th Sts.

22.—Scorgie Mrs., wife of John; same place.

*September 23.*—Scott Richard; 122 Bancker-street.

12.—Seamen James, who had been at No. 4 Wall-street; 22 Orchard-street.

24.—Smith Ann, from Liberty-street; Walnut-street.

19.—Smith Ralph, 22½ Nassau-St.

16.—Smith Thomas, from 6 John-Street; Grand-st.

26.—Smith John, carted tan in the infected district; 131 Delancey-street.

24.—Smith Mrs., wife of Thomas, from 6 John-street; Westchester.

15.—Snow Fanny, from 4 Lombardy-street; Marine Hospital.

19.—Spear Paul, from 188 Greenwich-street; 357 Broadway, aged 35 years.

14.—Stewart Nancy, from the infected district; Marine Hospital.

14.—Stoutenburgh Isaac, from corner of Liberty and Washington-street; Marine Hospital.

25.—Suitor William; 104 Vesey-street, had been in the infected district.

*October 7.*—Smith Mrs. R., from 22½ Nassau; Marine Hospital.

20.—Smith Robert; 349 Water-street.

17.—Stephens Thomas; 69 William-street.

16.—Stroebe Dr. John; 44 Nassau-street.

## T

*July 16.*—Thomas Andrew, from the corner of Wash-

## L

ington and Rector-Streets ; City Hospital, aged 26, native of Scotland.

*August 18.*—Taylor Mrs., from 111 Greenwich-street ; 171 Greenwich-street.

1.—Taylor Miss, daughter of John, from 111 Greenwich-street ; Tappan.

24.—Thompson James M. corner of Wall & New Sts.

30.—Todd Richard, from 5 Beaver-Lane ; Marine Hospital.

21.—Tofts Mrs. Lavinia, from Lumber-street ; 102 Water-street, aged 64.

11.—Turner James, from on board a lighter ; 145 Orange-street.

*September 9.*—Taite William ; corner of Liberty and Nassau-Streets.

3.—Thompson Jeffery ; Washington-st. near the fence.

3.—Tiffanan Mary ; 69 Cross-street.

*October 15.*—Thornburn Ann ; 96 Catharine-street.

# V

*September 10.*—Vandyke George, from Reed-street, Marine Hospital.

*October 5.*—Victor Ettienne ; 32 William-street.

# W

*July 22.*—Waters Mrs. cor. of Rector & Greenwich Sts.

*August 29.*—Wade Robert, from corner of Greenwich and Liberty-Streets ; 4 Lewis-street.

22.—Waterman William, aged 15, from 32 Lumber-street ; 5 Chapel-street.

15.—White William, from 38 Lumber-street : Marine Hospital.

*September 10.*—Walsh Maria Ann, from 46 Broadway ; Bloomfield, New-Jersey.

21.—Ward Nathaniel ; 20 Cheapside-street.

8.—Warren George G. from Broadway ; at Boston.

30.—Warren Mrs. wife of Abraham, from 41 Beaver-street ; Woodbridge, New-Jersey.

23.—Warren John ; 67 Water-street.

10.—Washington Emily, from 4 Thames-street ; 24 Anthony-street.

7.—Whelan Rebecca ; in a vessel foot of Delancey-st.

8.—White Charlotte, from Washington near Beaver-Street ; Marine Hospital.

- 20.—Wilcox Amelia, daughter of Charles ; 66 Pine-street, from 18 Broadway.
- 19.—Wilcox Mrs. wife of Charles, Do. Do.
- 8.—Wood Lorindo, from Broadway ; Saugatuck, Connecticut.
- 29.—Woodhull Mrs. Harriet, from 35 Maiden-Lane ; 6 White-street.
- 18.—Wyble Joseph, from Fletcher-st. ; Herring-st.
- October 22.—Walker Sally, from 67 Water-street ; 48 Spring-street.
- 3.—Ward Moses ; corner of Water and Scammel-St.
- 15.—Wareham Jane ; 67 Water-street.
- 22.—Wendelkar Lorenzo, from sugar house Liberty-street ; 263 Mott-street.
- 31.—Wendell Henry G. corner of Lombardy & Pike-st.
- 21.—Welsh Catharine, had been in Lombardy-street ; Marine Hospital.
- 17.—Whitby George ; 118 Bancker-street.
- 17.—Whitby James ; 118 Bancker-street.
- 7.—White James ; 13 Dutch-street.
- 10.—White Henry P. ; 69 Franklin-street.
- 16.—Wilson David ; 116 Broad-street.

## Z

August 28.—Zairgale Anthony, from 78 Cedar-street ; Marine Hospital.

The result of the whole number of deaths was in the year 1798, during the sickly months, two thousand and eighty-six. In the present season, from the 13th July to 2d November, the number has been only one thousand two hundred and thirtysix, and our city most probably, contains twice as many inhabitants, as it did in the year above mentioned.

I have been obligingly furnished with the following from the City Inspector, the correctness of which cannot be called in question.

From 13th to 20th July	- - - - -	79
20th to 27th do.	- - - - -	92
27th July to 3d August	- - - - -	70
3d to 10th August	- - - - -	80
10th to 17th do.	- - - - -	102
17th to 24th do.	- - - - -	81

From 24th to 31st do. - - - - -	69
31st August to 7th Sept. - - - - -	72
7th to 14th September - - - - -	72
14th to 21st do. - - - - -	79
21st to 28th do. - - - - -	84
28th Sept. to 5th October - - - - -	83
5th to 12th October - - - - -	70
12th to 19th do. - - - - -	75
19th to 26th do. - - - - -	56
26th October to 2d November - - - - -	71
<hr/> Total - - - - -	<hr/> 1236

In a former paragraph, I had said, that it was difficult to account for the origin of Yellow Fever in Lombardy and Cheapside Streets, unless we supposed, that it proceeded from some local cause. But on the day after the sheet, in which said paragraph was inserted, I fell in with my friend Capt. George Mills, an assistant of the Board of Health, a very intelligent man, who gave me the following information, viz. That the ship Superior, Captain Jocelyn from New-Orleans had arrived at the Quarantine Ground, and after a detention of six days, two days more than usual, had gone to Brooklyn and landed cotton; that one Carey, who had been sick at New-Orleans, came in the said vessel and went to the house of his mother in Lombardy-street about the 14th September, where Mr. Mott, Mrs Snow and Mrs. Carey sickened on the 16th and all died of Yellow Fever.

On the 21st September, the first case of Yellow Fever occurred in Cheapside-street, viz. at No. 22. This was that of Nathaniel Ward, whom Captain Mills supposes to have been infected with the disease, by dirty clothes, which he had brought with him from the ship.

The following deserves a place. It is the production of a respectable physician, which appeared in the Evening Post and conveys some ideas respecting the doctrine of contagion, which are well worthy of consideration.

*To the Editor of the New-York Evening Post.*

Learning, that some uneasiness and misapprehension exist in the public mind relative to the case of Mrs. Smith,

who is represented to be, at present, extremely ill of Yellow Fever, in Westchester County, I beg leave to communicate to you the following statement.

The late Mr. Thomas Smith sickened of Yellow Fever, at his residence No. 6 John-street, on Wednesday the 11th of September. I was requested to see him professionally, on the evening of Friday and I reported him to the Board, at their next meeting on Saturday. At the time he was first seized, his wife was in the country. She returned on the afternoon of the 14th and continued with him, at the house, in which he sickened, until he removed on the following day at noon to the corner of Grand and Sullivan Streets. Here she also attended on her late husband until his death. On the morning of the 17th Mrs. Smith was within what is termed the infected district, about twenty hours.

The doctrine of the occasional contagiousness of the Yellow Fever rests upon multiplied experience and undoubted evidence; but derives no support from the case of Mrs. Smith. I make this communication, fearful, that the public, might be needlessly alarmed, and an opinion obtain, that the present infection has diffused itself more extensively than is the fact.

JOHN W. FRANCIS.

---

On the 11th November, the last meeting of the Board was held, when the following interesting address was adopted and ordered to be published.

BOARD OF HEALTH. November 11, 1822.

The Board of Health have deemed it proper, on the termination of the malady with which we have been afflicted, and in accordance with the precedent established by their predecessors, to address their fellow citizens, and to bring before them a brief statement of the events connected with the disease, and the means they have resorted to for the purpose of preventing the extension of its fatal effects, as well as to mitigate the sufferings of those who were exposed to its ravages.

During the winter and spring of the present year, energetic measures were adopted for the purpose of removing



every species of filth from parts of the city where any knowledge could be obtained of its existence, and when the authority vested in the Board, authorised compulsive measures. The assistants to the Board of Health were accordingly instructed to employ every moment of their time in examining the lots and premises wherever nuisances were likely to exist, and to report all privies, sunken lots and cellars containing stagnant water, and every other nuisance of whatever description, to the City Inspector, in order that ordinances might be passed for their correction. These instructions it is believed, were faithfully complied with, and the ordinances passed by the Common Council, on the report of the assistants, amounting to *eight hundred and fifty six*, were strictly enforced.

Early in June, the Mayor, together with a committee of the Board of Health, visited Bancker and other streets, with a view of having corrected, before the commencement of hot weather, such nuisances as might have been overlooked by the Assistants. A report was accordingly made to the Board of Health, and the necessary measures adopted for purifying, as far as practicable, those receptacles of filth and wretchedness.

About this period, the Board received information that the Yellow Fever existed in several ports in the West Indies and other places with which this city had frequent intercourse, particularly the Havana, Saint Jago de Cuba, and Matanzas; and they were subsequently informed that Port-au-Prince, New-Orleans, and Pensacola, were sickly ports. The vigilance, industry, and perseverance of the Health Officer, Dr. Bayley, in the discharge of his duty, left no doubt on the minds of the Board, that every measure, which prudence and a sound discretion could dictate, would be put in operation to prevent the contagion from reaching our city through the means of infected vessels; and the Board were determined, so far as they were legally authorised, that no efforts should be wanting on their part to carry into effect the means provided by law, both internal and external, for guarding against the introduction and spread of infectious and pestilential disease among our citizens.

On the 7th day of July the U. S. brig Enterprize arrived at Quarantine from a cruize, via Charleston, where

she had stopped for about one week. This vessel had been at the Havana in March last, and had not touched at any port except Charleston until her arrival here.

Lieutenant Cox had died of Yellow Fever during her passage from Charleston, and ten of her crew were sick on her arrival. The number of her sick continuing daily to increase after her arrival, it was deemed proper to land her crew, in order that they might be removed from the infected air of the ship, and a better opportunity afforded to cleanse and ventilate her. The landing was effected on the 11th of July, and all the usual means were immediately put in operation to expel the foul air from the hold of the vessel; but it was found that the men on shore conducted with so much disorder, that it became indispensable again to return them on board. The ship having undergone considerable purification, it was hoped that the infection was so far destroyed as to insure the future health of the crew, but on the 23d of July there were three, and on the 26th two cases of Yellow Fever which occurred on board of her, a strong proof of the difficulty which exists in disinfecting a sickly vessel. The Health Officer remarks "that seven of the crew of the U. States ship Enterprize have sickened with Yellow Fever since Tuesday last, about a week after they returned on board of the vessel, which was well white-washed, and unslacked lime put in her limbers after they were cleaned out, and the ballast washed and white-washed, and during the whole process, several wind sails were constantly kept in her hatchways." The men were again brought on shore, and a guard to keep them in order, and prevent their escape to the city was obtained from the Navy Yard. The number of sick was about 30, of whom 14 died; the last death was on the 2d day of August.

On the 17th of July, indications of the disorder which we so much dreaded, made its appearance at the foot of Rector-street, near the North River. On that, and several succeeding days, information was received of persons being sick in that vicinity. They were uniformly visited by the Resident Physician, who reported them as sick of bilious fever. In this stage of the disease the Board directed a strict examination of the streets and yards in that neighbourhood. in order that they might ascertain

whether any local cause existed for the sickness then prevalent, but nothing was discovered except a ciss-pool, in a state of nuisance, which received the wash water from two or three lots of ground, too low to carry it to the street. They were immediately filled up and the nuisance was abated, but not the disorder.

The first cases reported to the Board of Health as Yellow Fever, were by Dr. Nielson on the 31st day of July, on which day the President laid before the Board a detailed account of all the cases of sickness which had occurred in Rector-street and its vicinity from the 10th day of July to the 31st, inclusive, together with the opinion of the Resident Physician, as to the nature of the disease. On the 5th of August the Resident Physician reported a person as a case of Yellow Fever, who had sickened on the first and died on the fifth, the same day on which she was reported. This being considered by the Board as the first official information that the Yellow Fever existed in the city, they immediately issued an address to their fellow citizens, recommending their removal, and at the same time requested that they would make a free use of lime, by strewing it in their yards, privies, and gutters; and on the 7th, public notice was given, that all the avenues leading to the infected district, would be forthwith fenced up. On the 10th day of August, the Board advised the Mayor to remove all persons found within the fences, and a committee was appointed, with authority to provide for the poor who might be ordered out, and to permit them to occupy the buildings at the Narrows, or at Kip's Bay, during the prevalence of the disease.

It was reasonably supposed, that these measures would have the desired effect of stopping the progress of the disorder, and that its ravages would have ceased for the want of subjects; but the imprudence of some, the incredulity of others, and the interest of many, prompted them to visit the proscribed district, and, consequently, the disorder was taken by several, and thus kept alive until its bounds could scarcely be traced, and a general removal of the inhabitants from the lower parts of the city was effected.

At this period the night watch, in that part of the city deserted by the inhabitants, was increased; a day watch

was appointed for the district enclosed by the fences, and two vessels, with four barges, was engaged and stationed in the East and North Rivers, with a sufficient number of men to guard the city between Fulton-street and the Battery on the North, and Fulton-street and the White-Hall Slip on the East.

On the 11th of September the Board appointed a committee, with authority to adopt such means as might, by possibility, arrest the further extension of the prevailing epidemic. The means adopted by the committee were such as are usually applied for the correction of nuisances, and recommended by medical men for that purpose; whether the effects were as salutary as those that might have been experienced from the use of other measures, strongly recommended by gentlemen of high attainments in chemical knowledge, the Board are unable to decide, but they have no hesitation in declaring it as their opinion, that the motives of their committee in adopting the means they had selected, was of the most pure and disinterested kind, and that the good effects of their labour was demonstrated in numerous instances.

The Committee to whom was referred the general superintendence of the concerns of the Board during their recess, was constantly in session at the old Alms House; by them the destitute were relieved, the poor were removed from the seats of infection, the sick were conveyed from the contagious atmosphere of their abodes, advice and instruction were given to the persons employed by the Board, and every duty required of the Committee was performed with fidelity to the public interest, and the perfect satisfaction of the Board of Health.

On the 16th of September, a new infection was discovered in a part of the city hitherto deemed healthy; on that day the Resident Physician reported to the Board a case of Yellow Fever, at No. 4 Lombardy, near Catharine-street; and on the 20th there were three cases reported in Cheapside-street, nearly in the rear of that which had occurred in Lombardy-street. The same measures adopted at the commencement of the disease in Rector-street, were resorted to in this instance, and the immediate removal of the inhabitants from the seat of infection was determined on. An order was accordingly

issued for removal, preparatory to such other measures as might be deemed necessary to prevent the further spread of the disorder in that part of the city.

These repeated removals was the cause of considerable expense to the public; for although none was permitted to proceed to the places of refuge, provided by the Board, except such as were poor and unable to provide for themselves, it was nevertheless found that the number of applicants was much greater than could be accommodated, and they were consequently compelled to advance to several families small sums in cash, as their necessity required it; and others were permitted to abide at the Alms House until they should be enabled to return to their places of residence and resume their usual occupations.

The number of persons accommodated at the buildings at Fort Richmond amounted to 239, consisting of 44 families, counting from two to ten persons each, and 23 single persons. There were 26 men, 69 women, and 144 children. A portion of these children are left orphans by the loss of their parents who died with the fever, and have accordingly been taken to the Alms House, until a suitable provision can be made for them by their friends. In addition to these there was twenty-eight persons accommodated at a house rented by the Board at Kip's Bay, who, together with those sent to Staten Island, were regularly supplied with provisions necessary for their subsistence, at the public expense; and in some instances, even their clothing and bedding was provided for them. There were also several sick families in the city who were destitute and to whom the necessary relief was afforded both in food and raiment, together with the aid of medical advice and attendance during their sickness; and to those who were removed to the Marine Hospital, consisting of 70 individuals, every exertion was used by the attending physician and nurses, to promote their comfort and to insure their recovery.

The reports of cases made to the Board of Health were considerably less in number, than what actually took place. This may be accounted for by the fact, that several persons who contracted the disease in the city, did not sicken until after their removal to the country; and there were some who both sickened and died without



medical attendance. The number of deaths reported was still more deficient than the cases, and cannot be accounted for, only on the supposition, that the request of the Board, that they should be reported, was unknown to the physicians.

It appears therefore by the daily reports as published by the Board, that in July there were 16 cases, in August 79 cases, in September 182 cases, and in October 87 cases, making a total of 364, and the whole number of deaths reported to the Board, was only 119.

The cases and deaths however, that actually occurred, were as follows: in July, 16 cases and 5 deaths; in August, 90 cases and 58 deaths; in September, 205 cases and 110 deaths, and in October, up to the 26th of that month, 90 cases and 57 deaths, making a total of 401 cases, and 230 deaths; to which may be added 10 deaths that occurred between the 26th and 31st of October, and were not reported to the Board as cases, making the whole number of cases 411, and of deaths 240. The mortality this year, has been much less, in proportion to the sick, than it was in 1819, when the cases were 63 and the deaths 43, a difference in favour of this year, of more than ten per cent. The great dissimilarity in the number of cases which occurred in the two years may be accounted for by the fact, that the disorder made its appearance this year nearly two months earlier than it did in 1819.

The Board are bound to acknowledge the countenance and assistance they have received in the discharge of their duty. They are under great obligations to the Governor, for the prompt manner in which he granted them the free and sole use of the buildings belonging to the state at Fort Richmond, Staten-Island.—They are indebted to the Commissioners of the Alms-House, for the assistance they have afforded them, and particularly to Mr. John Hunter, the assistant to the Commissioners, for the prompt and unceasing attention he has given to the calls of the necessitous, the collecting the necessary supply for the persons quartered at Fort Richmond, the interment of the deceased poor, and the various acts growing out of the peculiar situation in which we were placed. They are also much indebted to Doctor Chas. Drake



the visiting Physician of the Alms House, for his voluntary services, and humane attention to the sick poor sent to the building at Kip's Bay, several of whom had contracted the disorder before their removal, and owe the preservation of their lives to his skill and unremitted care. The Common Council have uniformly afforded us the most efficient co-operation, both in supplying the necessary sums required to defray the incidental expenses of the Board, and in delegating such powers as enabled them to carry into effect the measures deemed necessary and indispensable.—The Resident Physician constantly met with the Board, and executed the important duties of his office with diligence and firmness. The Assistants of the Board, who were of necessity exposed daily to the infection of the most sickly parts of the city, have merited both the thanks of the Board, and the approbation of their fellow citizens, for the zeal and perseverance in which they performed the duties incumbent on them. The Board acknowledge with gratitude the support they have received from their fellow citizens generally. The confidence they have placed in the Board, and the cheerfulness with which they have complied with their recommendations, has tended to lessen the calamity, and to give effect to the means which were employed for its extermination. But above all, the Board in an especial manner are bound to acknowledge the merciful interposition of that *Almighty Being whose mercy is over all his works*, for the signal demonstration they have received of His favour, in preserving them from the pestilence that was spread over our land, and in returning to their homes so large a portion of their fellow citizens who had fled for safety; and finally, for averting the evil we have experienced, and restoring to our city its usual degree of health.

By order of the Board,

STEPHEN ALLEN, *President.*

J. MORTON, *Secretary.*

THE END.



